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by Gaylen G. Hayes

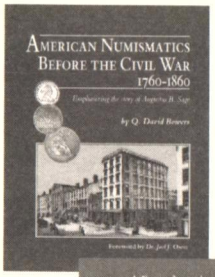


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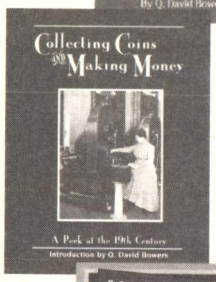
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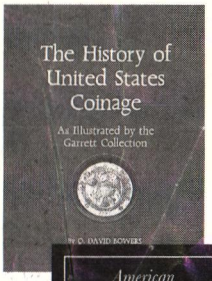
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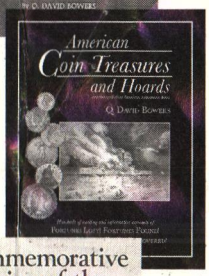
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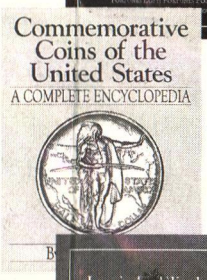
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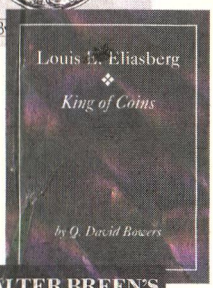
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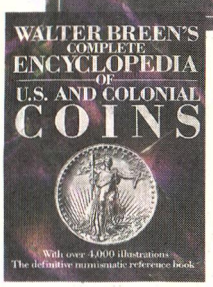


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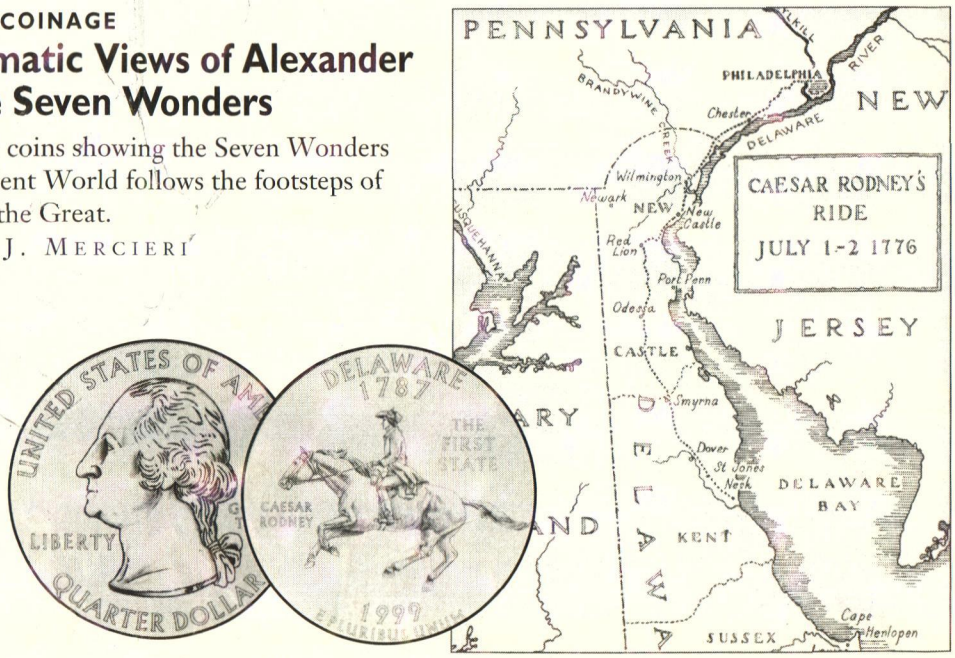
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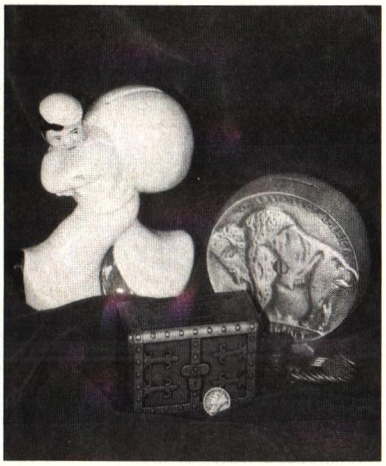
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DENNIS J. MERCIERI



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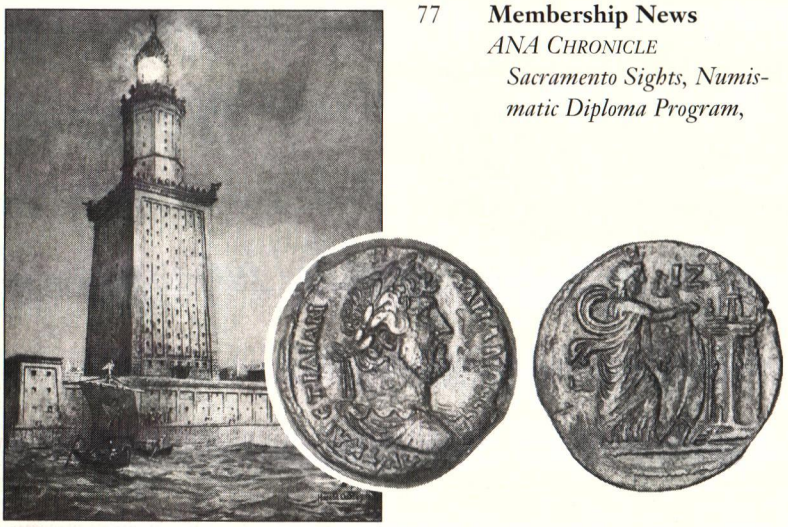
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An ancient drachm (A.D. 117-38) pictures Isis Pharia holding a billowing sail and sistrum, advancing toward the Pharos lighthouse (page 43).

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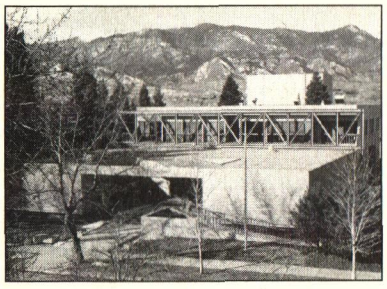
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New Quarters for the New Year

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

BY ANTHONY SWIATEK

AS A COLLECTOR of commemorative coins, I look forward to 1999 with great anticipation. Beginning this month, the United States Mint will begin a historically unprecedented program that will most certainly increase awareness and interest in everything numismatic.

The Mint's 50 States Commemorative Coin Program—a 10-year series approved in December 1997—will spill newly designed quarters into circulation every 10 weeks. It will give everyone the opportunity, once again, to complete a collection of coins from their pocket change.

Ever since it was announced, I have said that all of the numismatic organizations combined could not give the shot in the arm to the hobby that this program will. New collectors will find their way into the hobby fold, and new seeds of interest will be sewn and blossom in the years to come.

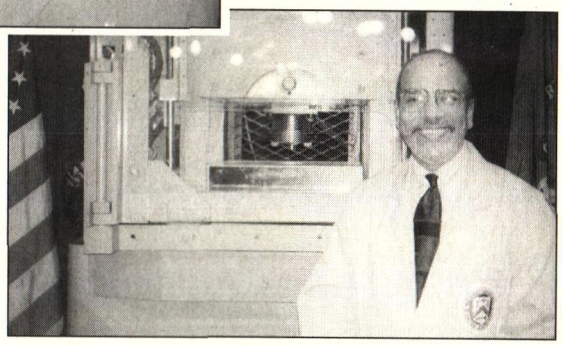
These new pieces hark back to 1909, when our nation's first *unofficial* circulating commemorative coin—the Lincoln cent—was introduced. In 1932 the nation honored George Washington with a quarter that was supposed to be a one-year piece marking the 200th anniversary of his birth. Now, 67 years after it first began jingling in our pockets, we will have new Washington quarters, symbolizing the nation's history and geography.

I can tell you from firsthand experience—having participated in first-strike ceremonies for the Delaware quarter on December 7—that the improved obverse portrait of George Washington is great. And, having examined Delaware's design, I am certain the remaining designs, emblematic of the other 49 states, will be just as wonderful.

During ceremonies at the Philadelphia Mint, Director Philip N. Diehl introduced United States Treasurer Mary Ellen Withrow, Delaware Governor Thomas R. Carper, and Delaware's only congressman (and chairman of the House subcommittee that oversees coinage), Michael N. Castle. At precisely 11:54:08 a.m. (EST), Mary Ellen struck the first of the new circulating commemorative quarters. Later, I had the opportunity to strike two specimens for the ANA Money Museum. (Also allowed to strike a coin was Dana Revak, a 5th-grader at St. Mary's School in Philadelphia.)

After the ceremonial first strikes, the group moved to the press room, where Treasurer Withrow stood at the controls. At precisely 12:19:38 p.m., she pushed the button and began the historic production of the coins that will change the face of numismatics and our hobby. •





United States Treasurer Mary Ellen Withrow (left) struck the first of the new circulating commemorative quarters. Operating the press at the first-strike ceremony was John Hill (below), who coincidentally was the pressman when I was invited to strike one of the 1987 Constitution Bicentennial uncirculated silver dollars.



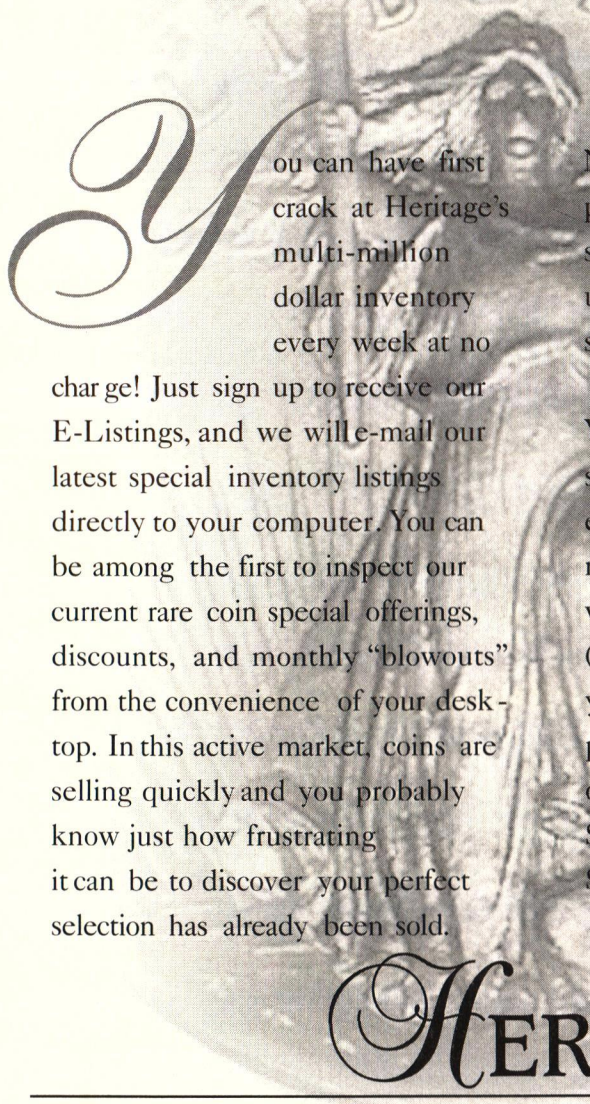
ANA President Anthony Swiatek is proud to have participated in the striking of the first quarters in the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program. An authority on gold and silver commemorative coins, Swiatek has testified before Congress and is the author of a number of books, newsletters and articles. He has received the ANA Medal of Merit, as well as the ANA's Heath and Wayte and Olga Raymond Literary Awards.

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Grading Matters

MINT STATE VIEWS

BY PETER MOSIONDZ JR.

ABE KOSOFF ONCE defined grading as "the determination of the state of preservation by an experienced numismatist without prejudice as to ownership." The phrase "without prejudice as to ownership" is particularly significant. Kosoff knew that to a potential buyer (i.e., dealer) a coin may not look so hot, but oh how its desirability improves when he takes possession.

Can one be objective in a subjective (grading) matter? Yes. True, in isolated instances a coin might receive five totally different grades from five numismatic experts, but most of the time the opinions of such professionals are amazingly close.

Unfortunately, however, some dealers use grading to their advantage. For example, the following scenario occurs far too often: A coin is advertised as being in an uncirculated grade that most reputable dealers would sell for $100. But this particular coin is offered for $75 and labeled "Premium Quality." Closer inspection reveals the coin actually is About Uncirculated (AU). The *Coin Dealer Newsletter* ("Greysheet") quotes a $35 bid and $40 ask price for such a specimen. (Remember, these prices are for dealer-to-dealer transactions.) Most professional numismatists probably would sell this coin for $50 retail, but not this dealer. He upgrades the coin to "uncirculated," tacks on an extra 50 percent to the selling price and then adds some flowery adjectives to make the coin sound more appealing. Eventually the ruse is discovered, either when the collector does some numismatic study or has the coin examined by someone with grading acumen.

Let's look at another situation. Imagine that a collector needs to sell his Lincoln cents to help pay his daughter's college tuition. Many, if not most, of the key and semi-key pieces were purchased more than 20 years ago from a reputable dealer. However, according to the dealer now making an offer, the 1909-S VDB is Fine, the 1914-D is suspicious and a "low end" Very Fine, and the 1922 Plain (no "D") barely makes Fine. He points out other deficiencies as well. One by one, he denigrates virtually all the important specimens. Finally, the dealer makes an offer, but it is a mere fraction of what the collector paid more than two decades ago.

Is the dealer to blame in either or both of these cases? Yes, to some degree, but not totally. I think collectors must share the responsibility. Let's talk about it.

In the first example, the collector should have realized immediately that there is no Santa Claus in numismatics. Why would any dealer in his right mind spend a huge sum of money on a full-page advertisement to sell you something for less than most *dealers* would gladly pay for the same item if it was accurately graded and authoritatively described? At the very least, the collector should have had the coin evaluated and promptly returned it when it was found to be overgraded.

The second illustration does not provide any insight on the original dealer. Were the coins accurately graded when the collector bought them 20 years ago? Since we do not have all the data at hand, we don't know if the dealer making the current offer was trying to take advantage of our friend although, because he berated almost every coin, it is likely.

Regardless, both situations point out the glaring need for collectors to develop the ability to grade coins. To some extent, third-party grading services have allayed some of our fears about purchasing overgraded or spurious coins, but they are not infallible.

As a dealer, I do a bit of role reversal when pricing a coin—I imagine myself to be a collector. Do I want to add this coin to my cabinet? Does it have eye appeal? How would I grade it? Once I have answered these questions and made notes about defects and the like, I price the coin as fairly as possible, allowing room for a reasonable margin of profit. The key is consistency—always assign grades in exactly the same manner, whether buying or selling. •

Peter Mosiondz Jr. *began dealing in coins and stamps in 1968. His writing credits include nearly 600 published articles on philatelic subjects; a book,* SUCCESSFUL STAMP DEALING; *and several numismatic articles. He encourages collectors to introduce newcomers to the benefits of ANA membership.*

Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the ANA or the editorial staff.



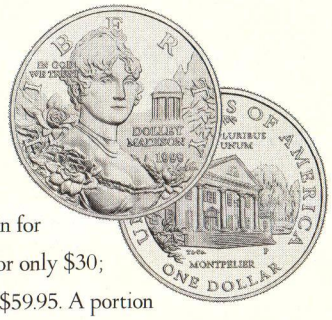
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LETTERS

Spengler's Inspiration—or Fantasy

"Mr. Spengler's Pennies" by Will Rossman (November 1998, p. 1255) was a delightful and valuable article with an important message: enthusiastic and talented individuals can unlock a considerable amount of meaningful history from a worn, old coin. While "Mr. Spengler" was a composite of many teachers, it was quite refreshing to read about good teachers generating excitement and enthusiasm for learning. It is not always reported, but it does happen every day.

Tedd Levy, ANA 45507
President, National Council for the Social Studies, Washington, DC

The article "Mr. Spengler's Pennies" by ANA Governor Will Rossman in the November issue of *The Numismatist* may have been inspirational, but it was just a little too fanciful for a numismatic journal.

There are no British penny coins of 1770, and in fact none were made close to that date, either before or after. The last previous issue had been made in 1694, and the next in 1797. One can only wonder what coin "young squire Rossman" actually saw.

Was it as well remembered as the 1793 Chain cent that he said was also in that mystical box? Did a "young Ben Franklin" actually spend anything like that for bread? Not very likely. He was about 65 years old at the time, and better qualified as a senior citizen. Let's hope the other lessons taught by Mr. Spengler had a closer tie to factual history.

Kenneth Bressett, LM 369

Author Maintains Theory Regarding Wartime Nickels

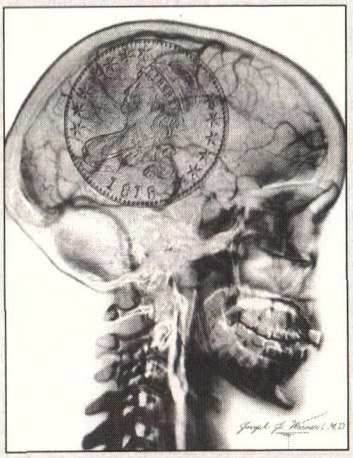
I read with interest Gordon White's letter in the September 1998 issue of *The Numismatist* ("U.S. Geological Survey Confirms Nickel Shortage in World War II," p. 991) and Andrew Miller's in the October issue ("Manhattan Project Consumed Nickel during World War II," p. 1112), both commenting on the "morale booster" idea I set forth concerning our wartime nickels ("The War Nickel: Metal Saver or Morale Booster?," June 1998, p. 634). They offer good points, though in both cases contrary information can be expressed quite credibly.

Mr. White quotes the U.S. Geological Survey report of 1941, claiming it proves a shortage of nickel. I did not quote this source in my original article (although perhaps I should have) because my own reading of it showed only that the United States government *believed* a shortage of nickel existed or would exist. The people who run a government are in the business of being cautious, especially in wartime. Thus, I don't feel this report *proves* a shortage.

Mr. Miller's letter touches on one of the great, little-told stories of the war—the scientific race for the first atomic bomb. His source is correct in stating that uranium hexafluoride gas is remarkably corrosive, and that nickel is one of the metals most resistant to the gas. However, even nickel corrodes in the continued presence of uranium hexafluoride, and persons in the War Department eventually okayed the production of an even better, non-metallic answer to the corrosion problem: Teflon®. I currently am examining Mr. Miller's source and others related to it. However, the bomb project doesn't appear to have required nickel late into 1945 (though some research may prove this incorrect). I still believe the "morale booster" theory I presented in the June 1998 issue has merit, but certainly I thank these gentlemen for their comments.

Mark Benvenuto, ANA 150911

An Incurable Case



"It appears, Mrs. Planchet, that we have discovered the cause of your husband's recent obsessive behavior. I also believe he will be unable to handle his own financial affairs any time in the near future. Unfortunately, this disease is inoperable and resistant to medications. It seems to represent some type of heavy metal intoxication of the brain. Your husband's prognosis is grim."

At a coin show in Orlando last year, I displayed this picture and caption. It received such attention that I thought you might like to share it with your readers.

Dr. Joseph Warner, ANA 139045

Wilson Seeks Third Term on ANA Board

I am declaring my intentions to run for a third term on the American

Numismatic Association Board of Governors (1999-2001). My name is John Wilson, an avid numismatist for the past 26 years and a retired Milwaukee County deputy sheriff. My interest in collecting encompasses U.S. and foreign coins and paper money; tokens and medals; ancient coins; porcelain coins and medals; numismatic books; and exonumia.

Collecting led to exhibiting throughout the United States, from California to Florida. My wife, Nancy, and I have won many national, regional and local club awards. These include best-in-show at ANA, CSNS, FUN, ISNA, ILNA, MSNS, IPMS, PMCM, NOW and six Wisconsin coin clubs. I am a recipient (along with Nancy) of the CSNS Elston G. Bradfield and FUN Charles Fine Literary Awards. In 1998 both of us also were honored with the Florida United Numismatists A.J. Vinci Memorial Award for Excellence in Numismatic Education. I have written many articles (along with Nancy) for all types of club publications (local, regional and national) and the numismatic press to promote the hobby and collecting in general. I am the proud recipient of the ANA's Medal of Merit, Glenn Smedley Memorial Award and Presidential Award. I am a past ANA club representative, district delegate and regional coordinator. I received the *Numismatic News* Numismatic Ambassador Award in 1990. I've attended numerous seminars at ANA headquarters.

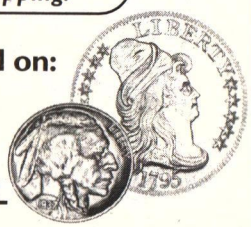
I was general chairman for the ANA's 100th Anniversary Convention in Chicago in 1991, which brought together over 20,000 collectors and dealers from around the world. Nancy and I also were assistant general chairmen for the ANA's 1986 convention in Milwaukee, and general chairmen for the 1990 Central States Numismatic Society convention, one of the biggest the CSNS has ever had. We also have worked on most Milwaukee coin club conventions, serving in many capacities to make the shows successful.

I am involved in Milwaukee's annual Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic, at which I usually present the segment on paper money. Nancy and I also assist with a number of young numismatist programs, including those sponsored by the Chicago International Coin Fair, the Blue Ridge Numismatic Association and the New York International

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I love to give talks on numismatics and have presented literally hundreds at meetings of local clubs, state and regional organizations, and the Numismatic Theatre at ANA conventions. Nancy and I have promoted the hobby by making available to nonprofit organizations over 30 different souvenir cards (to promote their shows or events) that have been cataloged by the Souvenir Card Collectors Society. I am proud to be listed in Pete Smith's *Who's Who in Numismatics.*

I belong to and am involved in about 40 coin clubs at all levels of the hobby. I am a proud life member of the ANA, ANS, CSNS, FUN, NSDR, SPMC, MSNA, DWMC, NI, SCCS, BRNA, TSNS, CCCC and three local coin clubs. I also am a member of NLG, NBS, IBNS, TEC, IOWMC, PMCM, IPMS, CCRT, FCCB, CWTS, TAMS, IASAC, OHNS, ISNA, ILNA, MSNS, NOW, CCC, RRCC, CSNA, NCNA and WWMC. I am past president of the Central States Numismatic Society and a board member of the Paper Money Collectors of Michigan. I served on the board of the Society of Paper Money Collectors for several terms. I also served as president of three Milwaukee area coin clubs.

I always have believed in working to promote the hobby within the ANA and especially with young numismatists. As a reelected member of the Board of Governors, I would work just as diligently to retain and bring new members to the hobby and promote numismatics. I would continue to be open-minded and fair to all members of the ANA, whether they be collectors or dealers.

My dedication and loyalty is for the betterment of the hobby of numismatics. I would make sane, rational decisions and work within the budget. I am a firm believer in a balanced budget. I also would continue to have conservative views as an ANA governor. When an important vote takes place, I will always try to do what is best for the hobby and our members. I will always listen to your viewpoints, whether positive or negative in nature. Thank you for your time . . . and happy collecting!

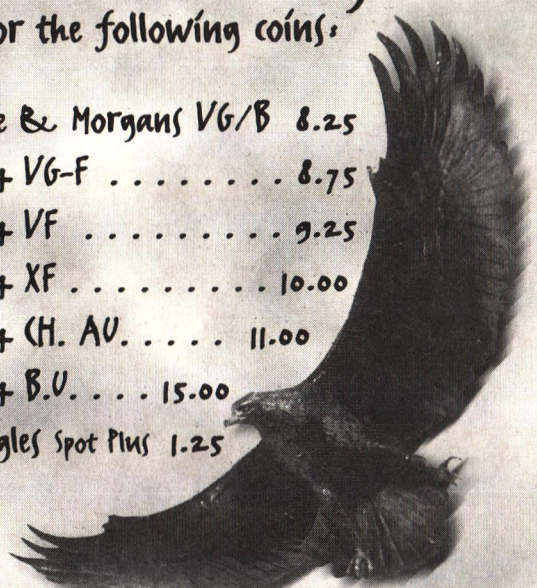
John Wilson, LM 3467

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NEW ISSUES



Not Actual Size

An East Caribbean States $10 coin shows the depleted peak of the Montserrat volcano: everything to the right of the volcano is rendered in verdant color, representing hope for the island's return to vitality.

EAST CARIBBEAN STATES:
Colorful Coin Benefits Montserrat Volcano Fund

The British Royal Mint has been authorized by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank to strike a 1998-dated silver proof $10 coin to raise money for the Montserrat Volcano Appeal Fund. The island of Montserrat, situated 27 miles southwest of Antigua in the Leeward Islands, originally was formed by an uplifting of a chain of volcanic peaks. In 1995 the island's Soufriere Hills erupted for the first time in recorded history. Tremors and explosions became a part of the island's daily life, culminating in a major eruption on December 26, 1997.

The volcano's dome collapsed, and towns and villages were engulfed by molten lava. Homes and livelihoods were destroyed, and many residents were forced to evacuate. To assist the task of restoration, a donation will be made to the relief fund for every proof $10 coin that is sold.

The Montserrat Volcano Fund $10 issue marks the first time the Royal Mint has struck a coin featuring a design in color, using a process of transfer printing. The sterling silver proof measures 38.61mm; mintage is limited to 10,000 pieces. The coin is available from the British Royal Mint for $54.95, each plus $5.95 postage and handling per order. Address orders to British Royal Mint, Cheyenne, WY 82008-0031, telephone toll-free 800/221-1215.

HUNGARY:
750 Forints Marks 125th Anniversary of Budapest

To celebrate the 125th anniversary of the unification of Budapest, the National Bank of Hungary has selected the city's historic Chain Bridge to grace a commemorative 750-forint coin. The first of eight spans to cross the Danube River in the area, the famous Chain Bridge joined Hungary's old capital of Pest on the east bank with the royal city of Buda and the smaller Obuda on the west bank.

Mirror-finish proof versions of the 30mm, .500 fine silver coin are available for $17.50 each; a brilliant-uncirculated (BU) version is priced at $15. Please add $4.50 per order for shipping and handling; New Jersey residents should add 6-percent sales tax. Mintage is limited to 12,000 proof and 3,000 BU coins.

To place an order or to obtain



The unification of Buda and Pest to become the capital city of Budapest in 1873 is commemorated on a 1998-dated Hungarian 750-forint coin. The event is symbolized on the obverse by the city's historic Chain Bridge; in the background is Buda's Castle Hill and Royal Palace. On the coin's reverse, the municipal coat of arms tops a map of the city, showing Buda and Pest divided by the Danube River.

more information about Hungarian coin issues, contact The Coin & Currency Institute, P.O. Box 1071, Clifton, NJ 07014, telephone toll-free 800/421-1866, fax 973/471-1062 or E-mail coincurin@aol.com.

GIBRALTAR:
Millennium £5 Features London Landmarks

The government of Gibraltar recently released a 1998-dated £5 coin to celebrate the millennium. The reverse reflects London's changing cityscape, showing the Millennium Dome at Greenwich, an imaginative new landmark with a 1-kilometer circumference; and the Millennium Wheel, a ferris wheel towering over the River Thames and offering unparalleled views of the city. Officially licensed by the National Maritime Museum, the £5 piece also includes the Greenwich Meridian 2000 logo. The obverse carries a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II.

Available as a virenium £5 circulating coin, and sterling silver (mintage 5,000) and .916 fine gold (mintage 850) proofs, the coin has a 36.1mm diameter. For ordering information, contact the Pobjoy Mint USA Branch, P.O. Box 109, Rosemount, MN 55068, telephone 612/322-2264, fax 612/322-5527, or Internet www.pobjoy.com.

ISLE OF MAN:
Crowns Celebrate Lunar "Year of the Rabbit"

The Pobjoy Mint has struck a series of coins to celebrate 1999 as the "Year of the Rabbit," which occurs every 12 years in the Chinese lunar calendar. The obverse bears a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, Lord of Man; the reverse features an adaptation of a painting by Chinese artist Wo Yue-Kee of two rabbits surrounded by flowers. The Chinese inscription translates "Year of the Rabbit" and shows the artist's "chop," or signature.



Actual Size: 36.1mm

A Gibraltar Millennium £5 commemorative coin displays a collage of past and future London landmarks.

The uncirculated copper-nickel version is particularly suitable for gifts to young collectors. The coin also is available in proof .999 fine silver and .999 fine gold (5, 1, 1/2, 1/5, 1/10 and 1/25 ounce) with mintage limits of 30,000, 250, 2,000, 6,000, 12,000, 15,000 and 20,000, respectively. For complete pricing and ordering information, contact the Pobjoy Mint USA Branch, P.O. Box 109, Rosemount, MN 55068, telephone 612/322-2264, fax 612/322-5527, or Internet www.pobjoy.com.

AUSTRIA:
Circulating 50 Schilling Shows Nobel Winner

The Austrian Mint recently released its second bimetallic circulating coin for 1998. The 50-schilling coin is dedicated to naturalist Karl Lorenz, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1973. Lorenz' study of animals and their behavior was important to the fields of psychiatry, psychology and anthropology, and in later years, he became a leading figure in the field of nature conservation in Austria. The coin's obverse, designed by Thomas Pesendorfer, features a portrait of Lorenz; in the background are three grey geese, a species that figured prominently in his research.

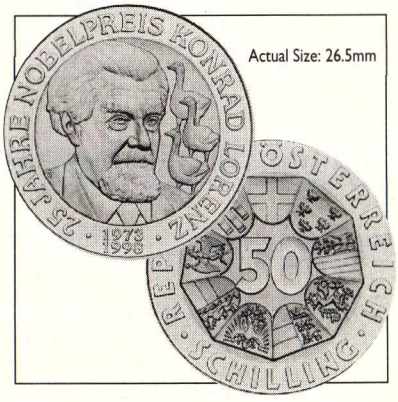
The coin's technical specifications are the same as those planned for the new "Euro" coins, the first of which will be issued in 2002. The Mint hopes these 50-schilling pieces will help educate Austrian citizens and ease the way for the new currency.

A total of 1.2 million circulating coins were issued through Austrian banks. An additional 100,000 uncirculated coins are offered in colorful packages for $7.50 from Euro Col-



Not Actual Size

The Isle of Man "Year of the Rabbit" crown carries an adaptation of a painting by Chinese artist Wo Yue-Kee.



Actual Size: 26.5mm

A new circulating 50-schilling piece with the same specifications as its euro counterpart to be introduced in 2002 will help introduce Austrians to the change in their change.

lections International, telephone 888/904-5544, fax 250/658-1455 or E-mail info@eurocollections.com.

CANADA:
Mint Offers Subscription to Lunar Series

The Royal Canadian Mint (RCM) recently announced a five-year subscription program for its Chinese Lunar Calendar coin series. Subscribers receive the next five sterling silver lunar coins—the 1999 "Year of the Rabbit" piece through the 2003 "Year of the Sheep" issue—a collectable box and a silver medallion. The series was introduced in 1998 with a "Year of the Tiger" issue; each $15 coin in the series bears a 24kt-gold-covered cameo depicting that year's featured animal. The 12 animals of the Chinese lunar calendar appear around the reverse.

The five-year subscription is $428.88. To subscribe, contact the Royal Canadian Mint, 320 Sussex Dr., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G8, Canada, or visit the RCM's web site at www.rcm.ca. •



Not Actual Size

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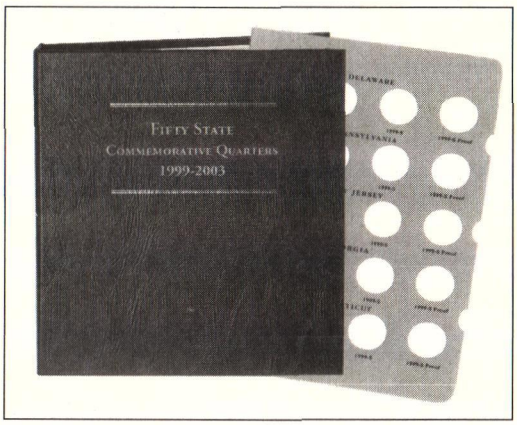
NUMISMATIC NARRATIVES

Albums Offered for "50 States" Commems

Custom-made albums designed exclusively for the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program are being offered by Littleton Coin Company of New Hampshire. Two green, three-ring binders hold 200 25-cent pieces—four for each of the 50 states (circulation strikes from the Philadelphia and Denver Mints, and copper-nickel clad and silver proof coins from the San Francisco Mint).

"We wanted to produce deluxe, sturdy albums for collectors to showcase the most important project in numismatics in decades," Littleton President David M. Sundman says. "Our designers created these new albums after listening to the comments of experienced collectors."

The albums are priced at $18.95 each ($35 for the set), plus $2.95 per order for postage and handling. For more information, contact Littleton Coin Company, Dept. KRF301, 646 Union St., Littleton, NH 03561-5350, telephone 800/645-3122.



Produced by Littleton Coin Company, dark-green albums with gold, embossed lettering will house sets of the United States' new circulating, commemorative quarters. The 50 States Commemorative Coin Program will run for 10 years, with the first issues scheduled to debut this month.

New Lesher Variety Found

A previously unreported variety of Lesher "referendum dollar" has been purchased by Colorado Springs, Colorado, coin dealer Tom Hallenbeck. Says noted numismatist Ken Bressett, "This is perhaps the most exciting discovery in [the field of] Lesher dollars in the last 75 years."

Joseph Lesher was a miner who issued silver, octagonal medals between 1900 and 1901 for use by businesses in Victor, Colorado, a mining community near the famed gold-rush town of Cripple Creek. Lesher called his money "referendum dollars" so that no one would have to accept them against their will. However, he hoped their use would create a demand to reopen silver mines, most of which closed after the government stopped buying the metal in 1873.

Lesher distributed most of his original dollars before the federal government stopped his operation and confiscated the dies in 1900. He then changed the size and weight of the pieces, and merchants in Victor and other towns turned the medals into souvenirs, engraving or punching their names on the pieces.

Until Hallenbeck's discovery, six types and 11 varieties of Lesher dollars were known. The newly discovered piece is imprinted A.W. CLARK/DRUGGIST/DENVER, COLO/No 1. Clark operated a drugstore in Denver from 1894 to 1924.



Not Actual Size

A new variety of silver, Lesher "referendum dollar," attributed to a druggist who operated in Denver, Colorado, from 1894 to 1924, has been discovered by Colorado Springs coin dealer Tom Hallenbeck.

Hallenbeck plans to display his find at the Florida United Numismatists convention in Orlando, January 7-10. To learn more about Lesher's referendum dollars, visit the ANA's newest on-line "exhibit" at www.money.org.

New Year Marks Introduction of Euro

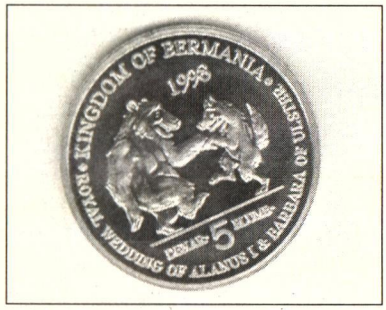
Originally considered nothing more than a dream among bureaucrats, one international currency soon will be used by millions of Europeans. On January 1, 11 nations officially were scheduled to welcome the "euro." Participating countries have three years to withdraw their respective coins and notes, at which time euro bank notes will be put into widespread circulation.

Euro currency, to be used in Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg,

Netherlands, Portugal and Spain, is expected to expedite American business operations in Europe, according to Gail Fosler, chief economist for The Conference Board. "Currency volatility is one of the most significant risks for businesses engaged in international trade," Fosler explains. "The negative impact of one country's instability on financial markets will be reduced by a single currency." For additional information on the euro, see the European Central Bank's web site at www.ecb.int.

Dealer Issues "Coins" to Celebrate Wedding

Connecticut coin dealer Allen G. Berman (alias "Alanus I, King of Bermania") commissioned the production of "royal wedding commemorative coins" to celebrate his recent marriage to Barbara Cohen Haines (also known as the "Countess of Ulster in America"). The "5 denari plumbi" coins were issued by Berman's "State of Mind" in nickel-silver (mintage 1,000) and aluminum (mintage 452).



Dealer Allen Berman issued fantasy "coins" in nickel-silver and aluminum to celebrate his recent marriage.

According to Berman, "Most aluminum examples are not likely to enter circulation, even in Bermania," as they were intended for distribution at his November 1998 wedding and to be used as New Year's favors. Another 18 "off-metal strikes in silver" were presented to members of the wedding party, and a pair was struck in traditional lead for the wedding couple. Nickel-silver "circulation strikes" are available for $6 each, plus $2 postage and handling, from Allen Berman at P.O. Box 605, Fairfield, CT 06430.

U.S. Mint Computerizes Enterprise Services

With the introduction of a new computer system, the United States Mint has taken another step in its

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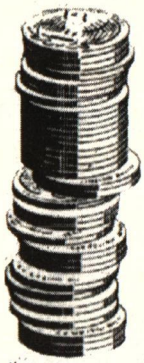
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transformation from "a traditional government agency into a customer-driven organization," according to Mint Director Philip N. Diehl. The Mint is the first federal agency to use an "enterprise resource planning computer system" (dubbed "COnsolidated Information System," or COINS), which integrates financial management, manufacturing and marketing functions, and a "Year 2000" solution for all Mint facilities.

"COINS represents the realization of one of [our] major goals . . . to adopt best-in-business practices by acquiring state-of-the-art technology to re-engineer the way we serve our customers," Diehl says. The new system, he adds, will mean more efficient processing of customer orders, faster response to inquiries, better tracking of purchases and management of inventories, and reduced shipping costs.

Rubin Names Ferguson New BEP Director

In December 1998, Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin named Thomas A. Ferguson director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP). With the BEP for more than 24 years, Ferguson has served as deputy director since November 1997 and acting director since January 1998.

As BEP director, Ferguson will work to position the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to meet the challenges of the next century and to assure its resources are appropriate to meet customer demand. Born in Trenton, New Jersey, he received a bachelor's degree in economics from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California.

Clinton Approves Coins

President Clinton has approved the issuance of commemorative coins to mark the bicentennial of the Library of Congress and the 125th anniversary of Thomas A. Edison's invention of the electric light bulb. The President also extended the sales period for the Jackie Robinson commemorative coin program.

The Library of Congress coins will be issued in 2000 and will include the nation's first gold and platinum bimetallic coin. Surcharges from the sale of the silver, gold and

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bimetallic pieces will be used for educational initiatives at the Library, primarily the National Digital Library Program.

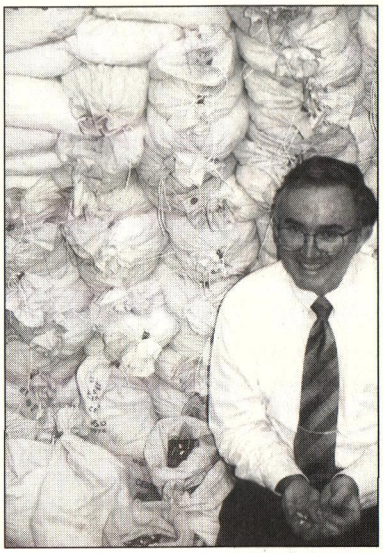
The Edison coins will be struck only in silver and issued in 2004. Proceeds from the $10 surcharge will be split among eight institutions related to Edison and his achievements.

The Robinson commemorative coin program initially expired on July 1, 1998, but legislation approved by Congress and signed by Clinton last fall allowed the Jackie Robinson Foundation to buy the remaining coins at a discount at the end of 1998. Poor sales of the original 60,000 silver dollars and 20,000 gold $5 coins led the Foundation to seek the extension. The Mint's costs for continuing the program will be borne by the Foundation's surcharge receipts.

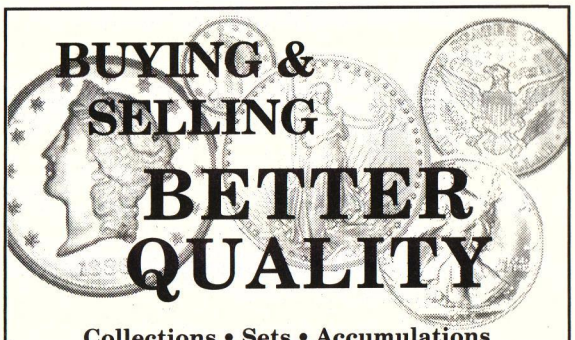
"Mega-Hoard" Contains Seven Tons of Coins

The largest known hoard of old United States coins—1,746,000 pieces weighing 7.6 tons—was purchased by Littleton Coin Company of New Hampshire. The coins were stored for decades in 390 canvas bags and 55-gallon metal drums inside an anonymous collector's house.

Described as the "Midwest Mega-Hoard," the collection includes 950,000 Indian Head cents, 308,000 Liberty Head nickels and 488,000 Buffalo nickels. The hoard's new owner estimates it will take about 12 months to sort the coins by denomination, date, mintmark and grade. Assorted pieces will be displayed at the ANA's 1999 World's Fair of Money® in Chicago, August 11-15. •



David Sundman, president of Littleton Coin Company, is thrilled with his firm's most recent acquisition—7.6 tons of old United States coins.



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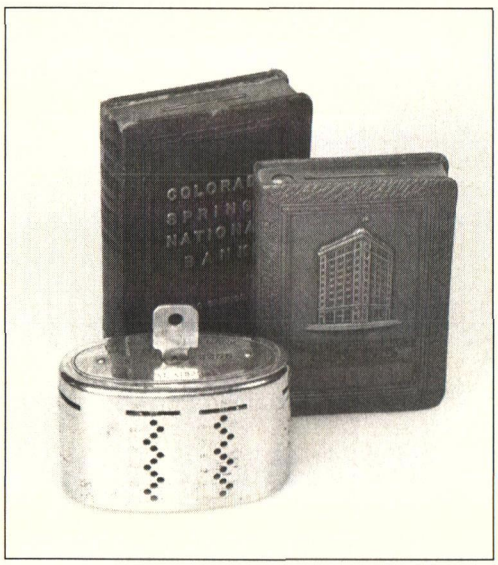
Banks for the Memories

Though sometimes tough to find, coin banks with numismatic themes can be inexpensive and fun to collect, and often complement your hobby interests.

by Gaylen G. Hayes
ANA 101962

I BEGAN COLLECTING coin banks in May 1994, when I came across an old one that had been given away as a promotion for the National Bank of Commerce in Dallas, Texas. (I bought it thinking it might complement a display of National Bank notes from the same institution.) My next acquisition was a small bank produced in the 1930s for the Lamar State Bank in my home town of Paris, Texas.

A natural outgrowth of my coin-collecting hobby, these initial purchases stimulated my interest in banks distributed by banking institutions. After all, many of the numismatic items we treasure today probably were saved in our parents' and grandparents' coin banks. (More likely, I enjoy the absurdity of paying good money for something that was given away!)



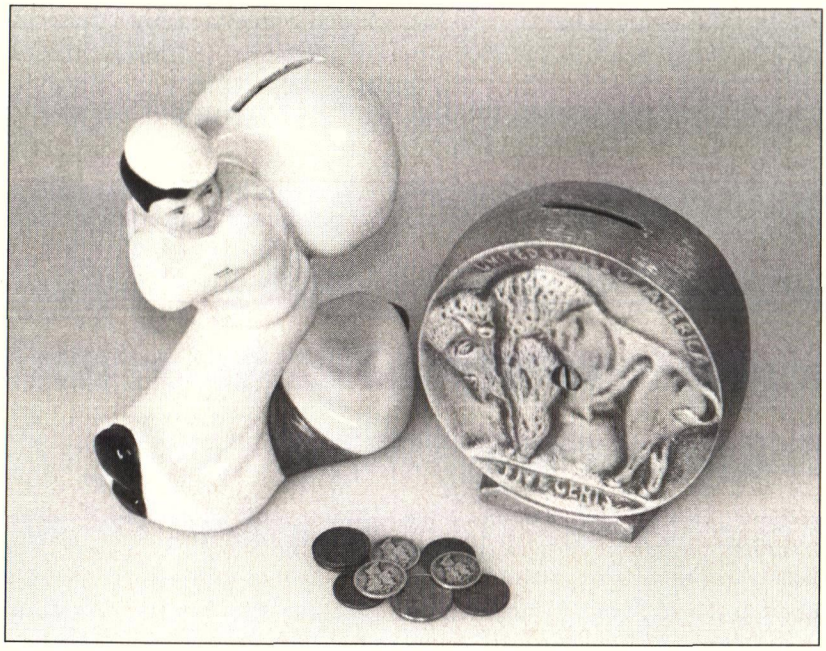
The Colorado Springs (Colorado) National Bank and the First National Bank of Springfield, Illinois, issued leather-bound savings "books" to encourage thrift. A keyed, metal bank produced for Nebraska's Fremont State Bank "registered" deposits and allowed insertion of bills in the bottom.

GEROME WALTON

Like numismatics, the scope of bank collecting is huge, and many hobbyists find it necessary to limit their collections to particular types, such as mechanical banks; "still" banks (no moving parts); banks made of specific materials (ceramic, paper, cardboard, metal, plastic, etc.); banks resembling animals (pigs predominate), famous Americans, automobiles, buildings, etc.; and banks issued for advertising purposes. The possibilities are limitless.

While preparing to display my collection of banks at a local library, I discovered that other bank "giveaways" added to the exhibit's appeal, so I included a variety of related items: matchboxes, key chains, ashtrays, cigarette lighters, watch fobs, calendars (lots of calendars!), knives, paperweights, thermometers, rain gauges, yardsticks, rulers, fans, salt and pepper shakers, emery boards, screwdrivers,

WHILE PREPARING TO display my collection of banks at a local library, I discovered that other bank "give-aways" added to the exhibit's appeal . . .

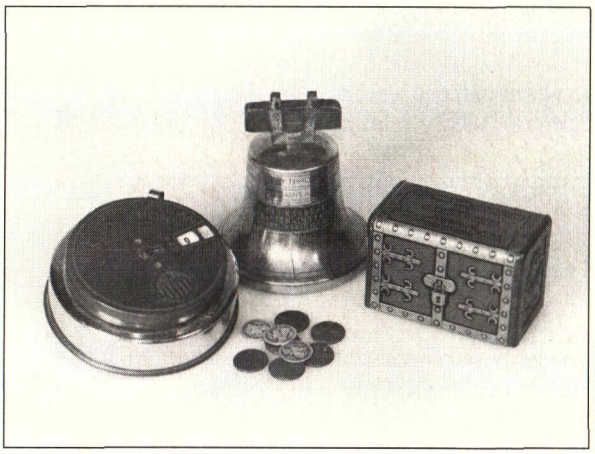


The Seamen's Bank for Savings in Brooklyn, New York, rewarded patrons with a plucky ceramic sailor (left). A cast, metal bank produced for a Texas institution (right) replicates a Buffalo nickel reverse, with "1ST IN DENTON" on the other side.

SUSIE NULTY (SAILOR) / GAYLEN HAYES (NICKEL)



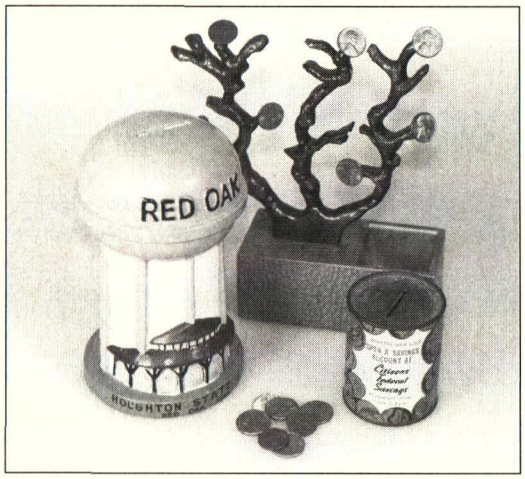
GAYLEN HAYES



GEROME WALTON

Above left: Coin cards are colorful and fairly common, generally priced from $2 to $5 each. A ceramic bank manufactured for the Dime Savings Bank of Brooklyn, New York, is rarely seen and commands $35 to $60. Above right: A round, red-enamel and chrome bank (left) produced for the United Building & Loan Association in Wichita, Kansas, keeps track of savings, while a Liberty Bell bank encourages folks to do business with Iowa's Shenandoah National Bank. And who knows what treasures were collected in the chest issued by The Colorado Commercial and Savings Bank (right)?

ANTIQUE BANKS CAN be quite expensive; however, the ones in my collection are not particularly rare and, consequently, are very affordable.



"Money tree" banks are not uncommon and usually are priced between $15 and $25. All have apparently uncirculated 1952-D and 1953-D cents glued to the branches, making the bank particularly easy to date. A plaster bank issued by the Houghton State Bank mimics the water tower in Red Oak, Iowa. Less fancy is a tin can whose coin-festooned label reads "when this bank is full OPEN A SAVINGS ACCOUNT at Citizens Federal Savings."

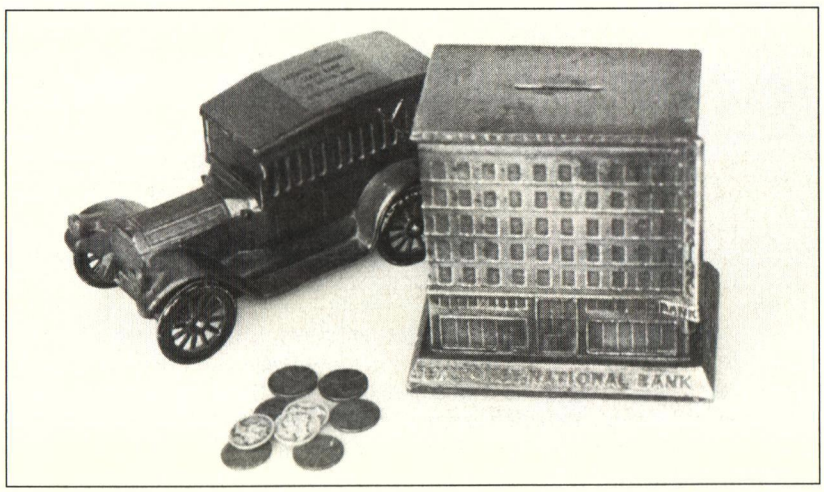
GAYLEN HAYES/GEROME WALTON (TOWER)

night lights, belt buckles, playing cards, combs, mirrors, pens (lots of those, too), food-bag clips, drinking glasses, clocks, tokens, sewing kits, tissue holders, and some mysterious items I have not yet identified.

I purchased most of my banks at reasonable prices, usually between $5 and $20. Antique banks can be quite expensive; however, the ones in my collection are not particularly rare and, consequently, are very affordable. I hesitate to pay more than $50 for a bank and have refused many that I thought were overpriced at $15. Unfortunately, I have found no definitive price guide for collectable banks, a role filled numismatically by R.S. Yeoman's *Guide Book of United States Coins* or Krause Publications' *Standard Catalog of World Coins.*

My collection of banks advertising banking institutions consists of more than 200 specimens. Undoubtedly more exist, as illustrated by the variety of banks pictured here from other sources. I plan to keep collecting them until my wife gets tired of the clutter . . . or makes me dust them! •

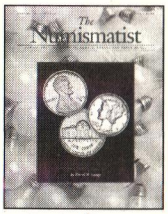
Employed by the East Texas Medical Center's Regional Healthcare System in Clarksville, ***Dr. Gaylen Hayes*** *is director of the facility's emergency department and rural health clinic. His last article for THE NUMISMATIST, "Entirely with a Brush and the Naked Eye" (August 1989), spotlighted the numismatic art of John Haberle.*



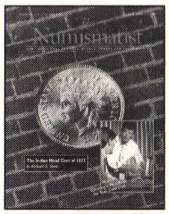
The Farmers Terminal State Bank ("the Motor Bank") in Newport, Minnesota, issued a bank in the guise of a 1917 Pierce Arrow automobile, while the Exchange National Bank replicated its downtown Colorado Springs building.

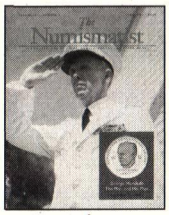
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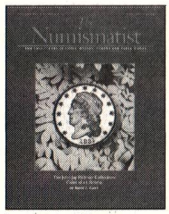
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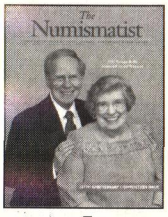

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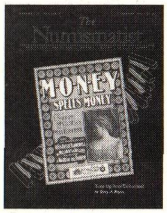

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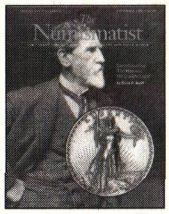

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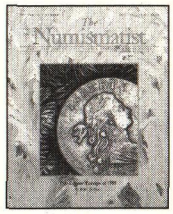

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12

LAST YEAR *The Numismatist* brought you amazing error coins, ideal type sets, beautiful Peace dollars and America's favorite gold piece. We explored the men —and women—behind the most talked-about issues in numismatics. All together, the 111th volume of *The Numismatist* gave you 1,488 pages of information and entertainment.

Of the 46 feature articles in 1998 (listed here for your convenience), what would be the top *three* on your list of favorites? Let us know what you like! Also, pick your favorite cover of the year (specify a number from the photos above). Send your votes to "Readers' Choice," *The Numismatist*, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279; fax 719/634-4085; E-mail anaedi@money.org. We'll publish a "Readers' Top Ten" in an upcoming issue.

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2							
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Caesar Rodney Rides Again

The first quarter to be issued in the new 50 States Commemorative Coin Program pays tribute to Delaware's own hero of the American Revolution.

by Terry A. Bryan
ANA 91349



A medal produced by the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission in 1975 commemorates Rodney's ride for independence.

IF ALL GOES according to plan, this month the United States will witness its first new commemorative quarter in more than 20 years. Signed into law on December 1, 1997, the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act calls for a 10-year series of circulating quarters featuring a revised portrait of President George Washington on the common obverse and designs emblematic of each of the 50 states on the reverses. The law provides for the release of five 25-cent pieces each year in the order the states ratified the United States Constitution or were admitted to the Union.

The first quarter, scheduled to debut in mid-January, honors the State of Delaware with a depiction of a man on horseback—Caesar Rodney, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and Delaware's own Revolutionary War hero. Although familiar to inhabitants of America's first state, he is not a household name across the nation. (In fact, during its coverage of the United States' bicentennial in 1976, *Time* magazine referred to him as "Rodney Caesar.") Just why was Caesar Rodney selected to grace Delaware's 1999 commemorative quarter?

Delawareans Give Rodney the Nod

THE PROCESS OF design selection began in 1997, when a subcommittee of the Delaware State Division of the Arts called for submissions. Local newspapers got into the act, soliciting ideas from readers. Hundreds of suggestions were received—some lighthearted, some inappropriate, but many eminently suitable.

A public poll showed that Delawareans favored an equestrian image of Caesar Rodney, famed for his hasty ride to Philadelphia in July 1776 to voice his support of colonial independence. Local artists Robert Zlock of Cheswold and Eddy Seger of Clayton submitted substantially similar

" . . . IF ALL THIS wasn't sufficient, Rodney became de facto chief executive of Delaware in the late summer of 1776 and was later elected president of the state . . ."

designs of Rodney astride a rearing horse. The subcommittee sent the sketches along to the United States Mint.

The Oddest Looking Man in the World

DESPITE RODNEY'S POPULARITY as a historic figure, little of any real substance is known about the man. He was born on a farm outside Dover in Kent County, Delaware, in 1728. Despite limited evidence of formal schooling (though he is thought to have attended Philadelphia's Latin School for a time), he wrote a good many legible and quite literate letters.

Rodney was not handsome. He reportedly was a lean 5 feet 11 inches tall with red hair. He later was described by Congressman John Adams as the "oddest looking man in the world . . . tall, thin and slender as a reed, pale; his face is not bigger than a large apple, yet there is a sense and fire, spirit, wit, and humor in his countenance."

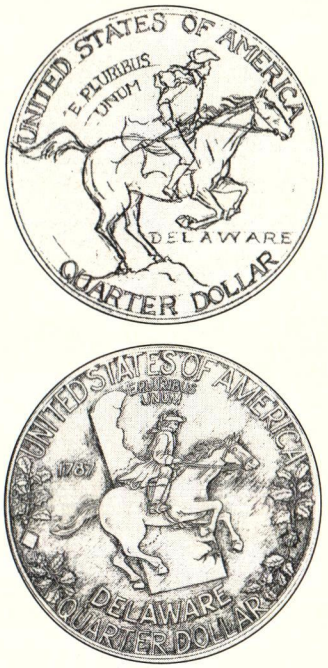
Rodney was orphaned at age 17, at which time he assumed ownership of his parents' property and became the ward of a prominent Dover citizen. His education and maturity apparently progressed greatly, and at the age of 27 he began a lifelong career of public service.

There were few elective offices in Delaware state and county governments that Caesar Rodney did not hold at one time or another. In 1755 he became high sheriff of Kent County, and subsequently served as deputy recorder and recorder of deeds from 1766 to 1776. From time to time, he also functioned as clerk of the Orphans Court and justice of the peace. During the Revolutionary War, he was named a brigadier general and later major general in the Delaware militia.

While serving as a member of the State Assembly, he was named to the Supreme Court of the colony. According to author William P. Frank, Rodney "served his state and the infant nation when he was elected to the Stamp Congress of 1765, and later as a Delaware delegate of the First and Second Continental Congresses, the latter while continuing as speaker of the Delaware Assembly. And if all this wasn't sufficient, Rodney became de facto chief executive of Delaware in the late summer of 1776 and was later elected president of the state for three years in 1778."

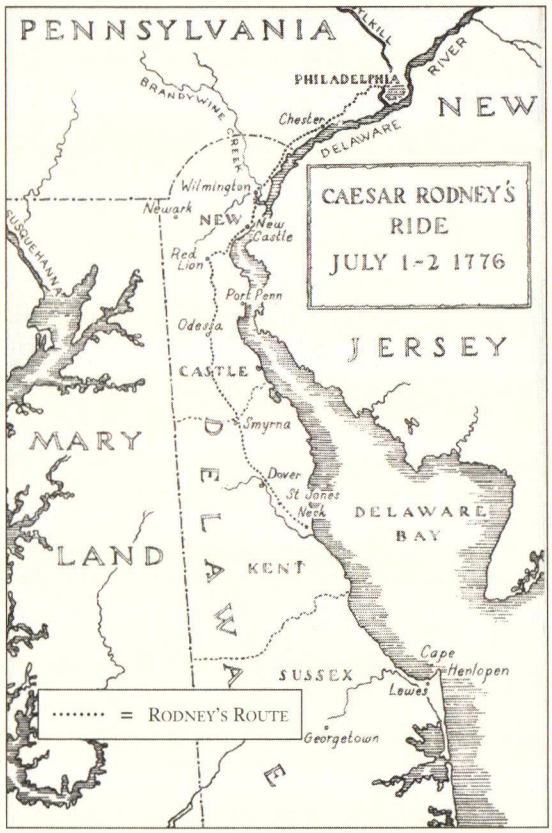
Caesar Rodney's Historic Journey

IN JUNE 1776, the Continental Congress urged the colonies to unite and unanimously declare their independence from Great Britain, and the



Reverse designs submitted to the Delaware State Division of the Arts Subcommittee included sketches by local artists Robert Zlock (top) and Eddy Seger (bottom).

ASIDE FROM ALL the romantic tales surrounding the historic dash, it must have been an unpleasant experience for a debilitated, exhausted man . . .



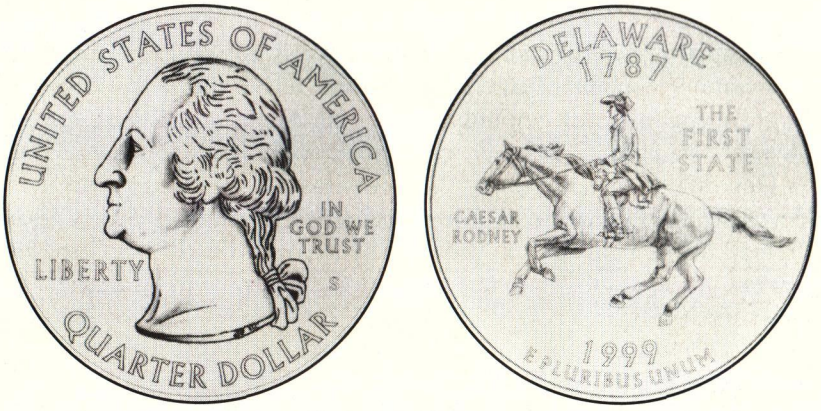
DELAWARE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Delaware Assembly was ready to cut its ties to the king. However, the colonies were divided in their allegiances, as were Rodney's fellow representatives from the State of Delaware, Thomas McKean and George Read. The trend of the debates had been relayed to Rodney in New Castle, Delaware (then the capital of the colony), where he was presiding over the Assembly.

By July, the weary revolutionary had retired to his Dover farm, Poplar Grove, for a rest. Asthma plagued him, and beginning in 1768 he underwent surgeries on a lesion on the left side of his face. (At the time, it was diagnosed as "cancer," and apparently his face was increasingly disfigured from the corner of his eye to his nose.) Nevertheless, he was urged to get to Philadelphia with all possible speed for the crucial vote, expected on July 2. Caesar Rodney's big moment had arrived.

All evidence indicates he departed from his farm for the 85-mile ride to Independence Hall (though 19th-century poetic license has him leaving hastily from a lady's home in Lewes). According to legend, he made the journey on horseback, but records and contemporary custom suggest he may have traveled by carriage. However, on a previous trip to Philadelphia, he had to leave his carriage and one sick horse, borrowing a saddle for the remaining horse. (A later reminiscence has him showing up in Philadelphia on July 2 in his boots and spurs, but men of his station often dressed this way, even for carriage travel.) Rodney's own words are lacking on this point; he made reference only to "thunder and rain" that delayed his progress.

Aside from all the romantic tales surrounding the historic dash, it must have been an unpleasant experience for a debilitated, exhausted man faced with bad roads and many stream crossings. Nevertheless, his arrival at Philadelphia to confer with his delegation ensured Delaware's vote for independence and the politically necessary unanimity among the colonies (the tally was 12 votes for the resolution, with New York abstaining pending the action of its Assembly). Two days later, Jefferson's Declaration of Independence put this into immortal words, but July 2, 1776, was the significant day, and Delaware's Caesar Rodney was one of the principal players.



Prepared by the United States Mint, these sketches of the first quarter in the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program show a revised portrait of President George Washington on the obverse and Delaware's Caesar Rodney on the reverse.

UNITED STATES MINT

Rodney returned to his Poplar Grove farm, remaining involved in the State Assembly and the Delaware militia. As his health declined, the Assembly met at Rodney's home to accommodate the respected Speaker. This was the last of his many public offices; he died in 1784 at the age of 55.

But Caesar Rodney's travels did not cease with his death. A hundred years later, a group of Dover citizens conceived a more monumental burial for Rodney's remains. An expedition to the farm and some poorly planned excavation resulted in the burial of his "bones" under a massive stone monument in Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery. (A contemporary witness stated that no remains were found, but the event had gathered momentum and the organizers likely felt they had to bury something!) In the 1960s, the farm's cemetery was archaeologically identified. The 1888 disinternment was nowhere near this site, and modern scholars believe Rodney lies in his original resting place.

A Fantasy Portrait

CONSIDERING CAESAR RODNEY soon will grace a circulating United States quarter, it is ironic that no one knows exactly what the man looked like. The lack of authentic portraiture makes all images of Rodney complete fantasies, even the best-known statues—a heroic, full-length, marble figure in Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol (created by Bryant Baker in 1934), and a bronze statue (sculpted by James Edward Kelly in 1923) in Rodney Square in Wilmington.

The latter has become a hallmark of the city, undoubtedly the most photographed, painted and postcarded view in northern Delaware. It is little wonder that Zlock's and Seger's designs for the reverse of the 25-cent piece recall the horsebacked hero in similar fashion.

The Rodney reverse was executed by United States Mint Engraver William Cousins. Four other quarters—honoring Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia and Connecticut—are scheduled for release in 1999. Circulating coins will be struck at the Philadelphia and Denver Mints, while proofs will be manufactured in San Francisco.



Other reverses scheduled to debut on quarters released this year as part of the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program honor Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia and Connecticut.

UNITED STATES MINT

The numismatic hobby surely will be enriched by the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program. Caesar Rodney was as steadfast to his duty as any of our Founding Fathers, and now his image adorns the first of a magnificent series of commemorative quarters. Said Congressman Michael N. Castle (R-Delaware), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy, "All Americans will be able to appreciate Delaware's new quarter . . . The depiction of Delaware patriot Caesar Rodney on his 1776 ride . . . will be a source of pride for our State for years to come, as these quarters are used and collected by Americans all across the Nation." •

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A dentist by profession, ***Terry Bryan*** *lives in Dover and enjoys collecting Delaware paper money. His last article for THE NUMISMATIST, "Tune Up Your Collection!" (August 1998), offered a nostalgic look at vintage sheet music with numismatic themes.*



John Flanagan's portrait of George Washington (left), created in 1932, has been revised for the obverse of the new commemorative quarter (right). Legends have been repositioned to accommodate the new reverses.

ANA ARCHIVES

Canadian Treasures



Honor the Courage of the RCMP

1998 Proof Silver Dollar

This stunning commemorative silver dollar honors the 125th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Struck in proof finish, this classic coin features an 1800's "Mountie" on horseback. Presented in a dark green display case and accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity.

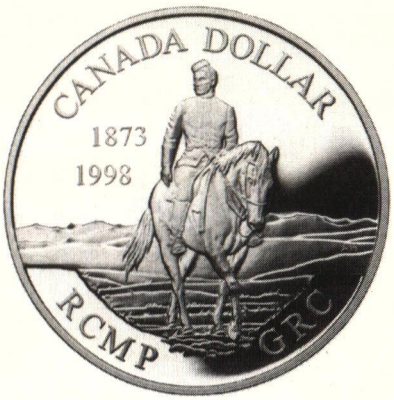
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The U.S. Mint's First Quarters

Although a popular coin denomination today, the quarter was not in great demand in its early days, resulting in limited quantities for collectors.

by Bill Jones
ANA 130370

IF YOU TOOK a poll of Americans and asked them to name the most useful coins in circulation, chances are the quarter would be number one on their list. Such a large percentage of our everyday transactions involves the 25-cent piece that it would be hard to imagine the United States economy without it. Yet, in the early days of our nation, the quarter almost went the way of the British shilling.

Our quarter dollar denomination was derived from the Spanish monetary system. The Spanish silver dollar, from which we patterned our dollar coin, was divided into eight parts, each of which was called a "real" or "bit." Two bits equaled a quarter dollar. (That, by the way, is where we get our slang expression "two bits.")



Henry William DeSaussure (left), who assumed the post of Mint director in July 1795, persuaded artist Gilbert Stuart (right) to create a new personification of Liberty for the nation's coinage. Stuart's design was translated into metal—and not very well, according to many experts—by Chief Engraver Robert Scot.

In the formative years of the Republic, our Founding Fathers decided to divide the dollar into 100 cents. Lawmakers had little trouble deciding that 1, 5, 10 and 50 cents were appropriate denominations—but a debate quickly developed over the coin that would fall between the dime and half dollar. Many people favored a 20-cent piece, or "double dime," because it was more consistent with the decimal system. Others favored the quarter, because the Spanish 2-real coin already circulated widely and was legal tender in the United States.

This debate was one reason the Mint issued so few quarters in its early years. The first

THE MINT MADE only a little more than 6,000 quarters in 1796—after that, it didn't produce another quarter dollar for eight years.

25-cent pieces were struck more than three years after the Mint first began producing other coins. The Mint made only a little more than 6,000 quarters in 1796—after that, it didn't produce another quarter dollar for eight years.

Today, only a few hundred 1796 quarters survive—and when one is offered for sale, the competition is fierce among collectors. The 1796 quarter may not have been worth its weight in gold when it was first made, but today it often sells for the price of a new car! •

A graduate of the University of Delaware and Rutgers University, ***Bill Jones*** *is a coin dealer and a numismatic author. He has written numerous scripts for the ANA's MONEY TALKS radio program and articles for a number of hobby periodicals. He also wrote the chapter on large cents for the ANA's INTRODUCTION TO NUMISMATICS correspondence course.*



In 1795 America, the Spanish 2-real coin, or "two bits," was widely used and officially accepted as legal tender.

ANA ARCHIVES



Actual Size: 27.5mm

Struck in 89.24-percent silver/10.76-percent copper, the 1796 quarter has a reeded edge and an obverse designed by Gilbert Stuart. The reverse features an eagle, credited to Scot's assistant John Eckstein, and a wreath comprised of branches of olive (left) and palm (right). Although Tennessee became the 16th state of the Union on June 1, 1796, the coin carries only 15 stars.

ANA ARCHIVES

Treasure of Xerxes
Huge Hoard of Silver Buried circa 450 BC

And now, as he looked and saw the whole Hellespont covered with the vessels of his fleet and all the shore and every plain about Abydos as full as possible of his men, Xerxes congratulated himself upon his good fortune; but after a little while he wept. His uncle Artabanus, who was with him at the time, asked about this strange expression of contradictory feelings. 'I was thinking,' Xerxes replied, 'and it came into my mind how pitifully short human life is . . .'

Herodotus VII, 45-46

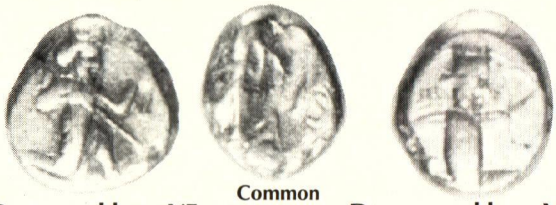
This moment in history described by the ancient historian Herodotus was perhaps one of the greatest military undertakings in history given the current technology. The accounts relate that the great Persian king Xerxes amassed an army of 1,700,000 men for his invasion of Greece in 480 BC. An entire city was needed to feed the army just two meals, and an entire river ran dry when they drank. And, huge quantities of silver coins were struck to finance the massive military payroll and all the expenses of huge military operations. The Hellespont was the waterway, at least a mile wide, connecting the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea and separating Europe from Asia Minor. In order to move his vast army, Xerxes commanded his engineers, mostly Phoenecians and Egyptians, to build a bridge. To do this, 674 ships were tied together in a double row and planks were laid over the decks. The planks were covered with brushwood and dirt to create a road. Xerxes invaded Greece and very nearly succeeded in conquering the civilized world.

As the Persians moved through northern Greece, they were met at the pass of Thermopylae, where 300 Spartans led by Leonidas fought to the last man, and successfully delayed the Persian advance long enough for the Greek cities to prepare. Although Xerxes captured Athens, the Athenians had fled with their fleet to the nearby island of Salamis where the Persian fleet was defeated by the more experienced Athenian navy. The army of the allied Greek city-states, led by Spartans was able to defeat the Persian army at Plataea in 479 BC and effectively ended Xerxes attempted conquest of Greece.

Xerxes is long dead, but his observations on the brevity of human existence still apply today, even though we average more than twice the usual life span of the ancients. By collecting, studying and handling the coins of the ancients, our human experience can be greatly enhanced. In our hands we have relics of great kings who commanded huge armies to conquer kingdoms now vanished. These treasures of precious metals that are now unearthed from the former paths of these ancient armies are sometimes the only tangible links that we have to those battles. Now you can expand your horizons to the Fifth Century BC with a modest contribution to the Jonathan K. Kern Co.

This hoard of silver was composed of over 100 pounds of struck sigloi. A single siglos averages 5.55 grams of nearly pure silver and depicts the Great King of Persia as an archer in an action pose. Some interpret his posture as the archaic art expression of running, and others describe him as kneeling. These coins were struck with a heavy sledge hammer on very thick oblong planchets, much like silver bullets, with a handheld upper die depicting the archer. The lower die was probably embedded in wood or stone to secure it. The lower, or reverse die of these coins, was used in the manner of the very first coins ever produced in the world. This lower die was a roughly rectangular raised metal lump, appearing in hundreds of mysterious variations. The raised reverse die creates an incuse impression for the backs of the sigloi. Museum studies now in progress utilize the reverse incused impressions for quick die referencing, since the obverse impression of the Great King is frequently off center. These coins represented a huge explosion in the production of coined money, and were struck rapidly to fill the need for pre-weighed silver authorized by a powerful ruler.

The Great King is shown holding a spear and a bow on the sigloi attributed to the Asia Minor mint of Sardeis, in Lydia and a bow and dagger on the other type which are possibly all from a different mint further south. Frequently they are countermarked with tiny punches by merchants or bankers, possibly to attest to the quality of the silver. We can sell either type in a **nice fine grade for $37** each, a **nice very fine for $77** each or a **nice extremely fine for $277** each. The raised obverse always grades much less than the incused reverse so our nice fine will usually have an extremely fine reverse.



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Numismatic Views of Alexander and the Seven Wonders

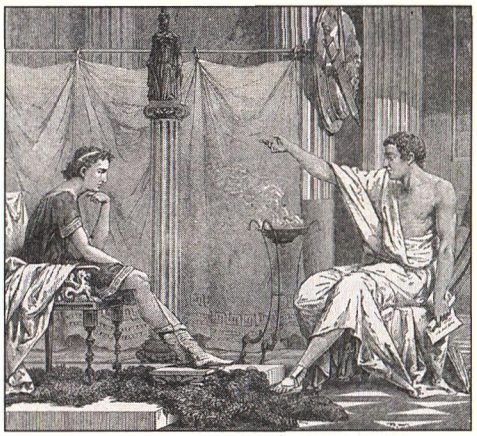
A quest for coins showing the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World follows the footsteps of Alexander the Great.

by Dennis J. Mercieri
ANA 156408

FOR ME, A quest to learn more about the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World" began with a large, bronze coin that pictured the biblical story of Noah and the Flood. Minted in Roman Asia Minor (modern Turkey) during the first half of the 3rd century A.D., this coin type recalled the Hebrew tradition of Noah's Ark coming to rest on Mount Ararat.

Those familiar with the Seven Wonders will say, correctly, that the Ark did not appear on the "standard" list: 1) Phidias' Statue of Zeus at Olympia; 2) the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus; 3) the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus; 4) the Colossus of Rhodes; 5) the Pharos (Lighthouse) of Alexandria; 6) the Pyramids of Egypt at Giza; and 7) the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. (Two of the earliest Greek writers to mention seven wonders were Philo of Byzantium, a 3rd-century B.C. engineer and writer; and Antipater of Sidon, a late 2nd-century B.C. poet. Neither included the Pharos; instead both counted the Walls of Babylon.)

It was medieval scholar and bishop Gregory of Tours (A.D. 536-94) who first named the Pharos of Alexandria as a "wonder." Like his Greek predecessors, Gregory counted several sites from the old lists, including the Walls of Babylon. Where the Frankish cleric differed was in his selection of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem and Noah's Ark in Asia Minor, choices influenced by the Hebrew Old Testament (and consequently the Christian tradition).



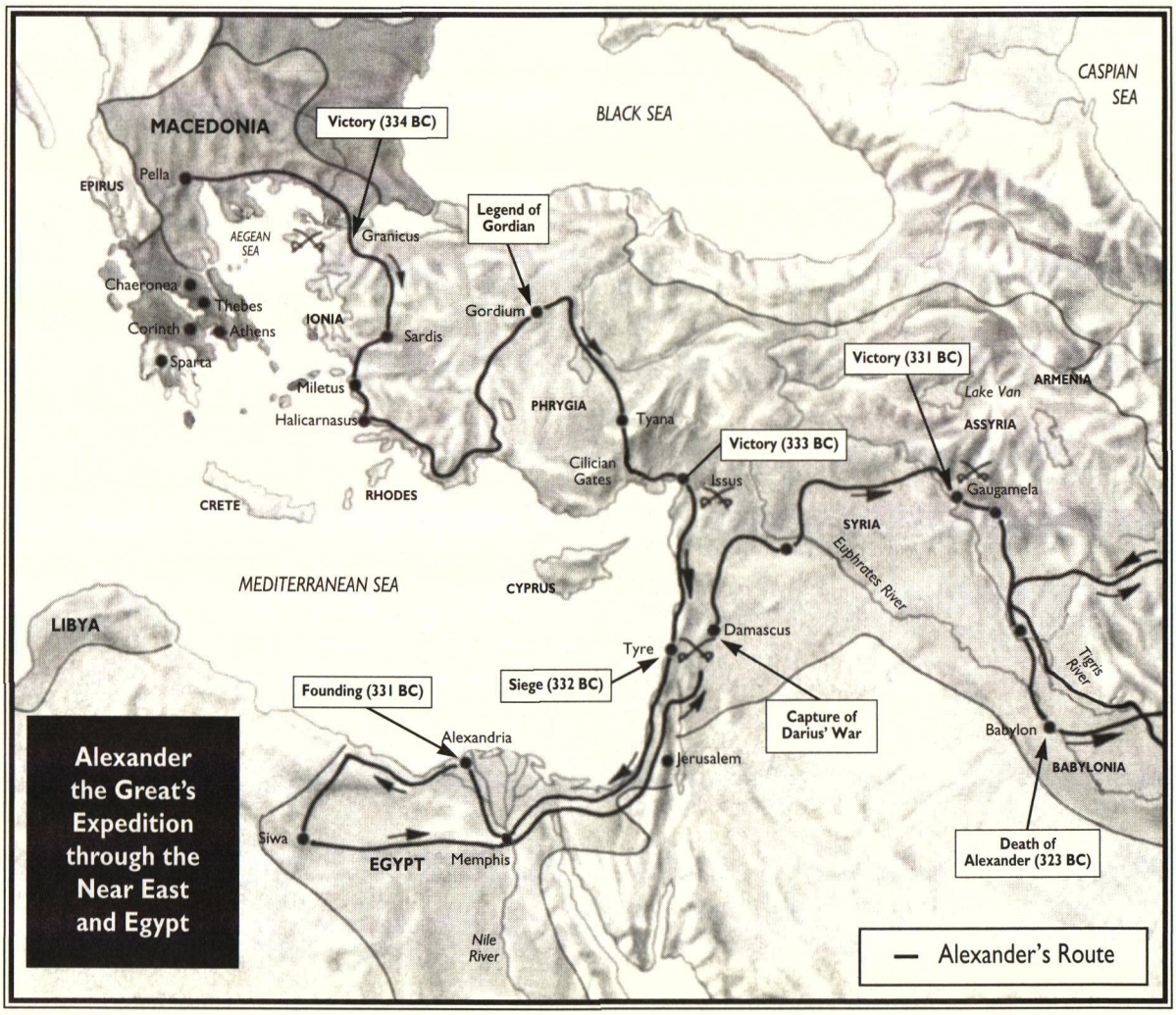
As a young crown prince, Alexander was tutored by Greek philosopher Aristotle.

Except for the Pyramids of Giza, only scant evidence remains of the Seven Wonders. The few ruins and contemporary accounts cast only a

glimmer of light on their long-lost splendor. Fortunately for us, coins serve as windows into the past.

What started with a coin of Noah's Ark became an all-out challenge to acquire collectable and modestly priced coins showing the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. To meet this challenge, I began my quest in the footsteps of Macedonian ruler Alexander III ("the Great") (356-323 B.C.).

This was no fancy on my part, for Alexander's career had many connections with these man-made marvels. Gifted with a thirst for the grandiose, Alexander made time while waging war to visit the important sights of the day. Roughly demarcating his empire—except in the East—the five existing Wonders felt the impact of the campaigning Macedonian, as did the two monuments to come.



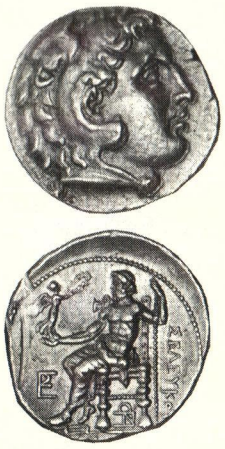
Alexander, the Macedonian Prince

ON THE NIGHT Alexander was born in July 356 B.C., an arsonist destroyed the great Temple of Artemis at Ephesus. According to legend, the hunting goddess Artemis spent the night in Pella with Alexander and his family, leaving her Ephesian sanctuary unprotected. During his Persian campaign 22 years later, Alexander offered a sacrifice at the nearly restored temple.

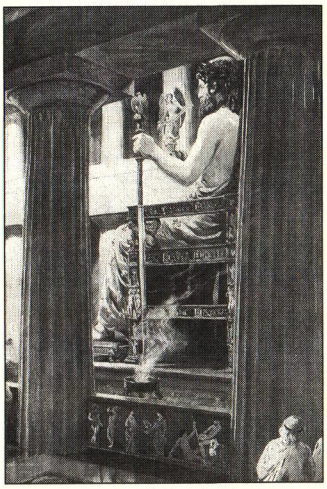
The Macedonian crown prince matured under the tutelage of his parents (King Philip II and Queen Olympias), his mother's relative Leonidas, and celebrated Greek philosopher Aristotle. Alexander also learned and practiced the Greek heroic virtues he encountered through the works of the blind poet Homer.

Named prince-regent at age 16, Alexander joined his father two years later on Chaeronea's battlefield to crush an allied Greek force and establish Macedonian control over the Greek city-states. Philip desired pan-Hellenic unity before taking on the archenemy Persian Empire. Greece and Persia had been at odds since Darius I expanded Persia's western border in 512 B.C.

Philip commemorated his Chaeronea victory by having a family monument built in Olympia. Called the "Philippeum," it housed statues of Philip and his relatives crafted by the Athenian master Leochares, who was renowned for his earlier labors on the great memorial tomb of the Persian governor Mausollos (the Mausoleum) at Halicarnassus in Caria.



A tetradrachm of Seleucus I (312-280 B.C.) shows Herakles, wearing a lion skin, and a seated Zeus, holding Nike and a scepter.



Phidias' Statue of Zeus at Olympia

Phidias' Statue of Zeus at Olympia

Silver Tetradrachma of Seleucus I

THE OLYMPIC CITY was the home of the Temple of Zeus with its massive, 40-foot gold and ivory statue. The Olympian Zeus was the masterpiece of the great Athenian sculptor Phidias (c. 490-430 B.C.), even surpassing his amazing statues of Athena and numerous sculptures that lined the walls of the Parthenon in Athens. Perhaps a visitor to Olympia's Temple and Statue of Zeus in his youth, Alexander later proclaimed himself son of this king of the gods.

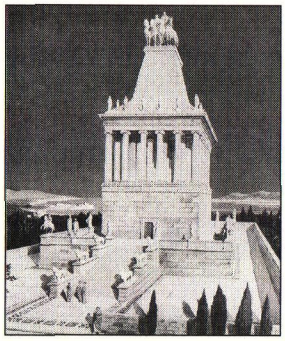
Philip, unfortunately, did not live long enough to lead an invasionary force against the Persians; he was assassinated in 336 B.C. The 20-year-old Alexander became king, inheriting both a superb Macedonian army and a debt of 500 silver talents (equivalent to about $2 million today). In 334 B.C. Alexander summoned an expeditionary force of 37,100 Macedonians and Greeks to invade Asia Minor, seeking vengeance and glory at the expense of a Persian Empire that was vastly superior in wealth and military power.

Darius III, last of the Achaemenids, was Persia's "Great King." He, too, acceded to his throne in 336 B.C., but he was a wily monarch twice Alexander's age and far more experienced. Darius was confident that no "Greek boy" could wrest his empire from him. Famed as the "Bravest of

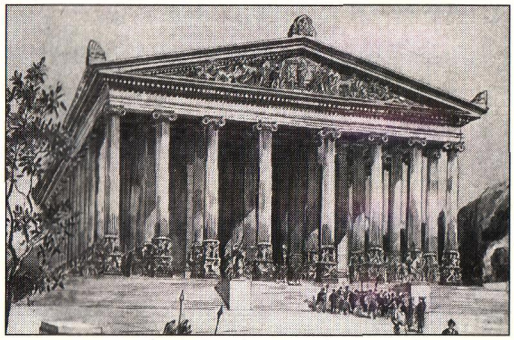




A cistophoric tetradrachm (top) of Ephesus in Roman Asia Minor features a bare head of Claudius (A.D. 41-54) and a standing cultus figure of Artemis in the temple "Diana Ephesia." An Ionian tetradrachm (bottom) of Carian satrap Mausollos (377-353 B.C.) depicts a laureate head of Apollo, and Zeus Labraundos holding a double axe and a spear.



Mausoleum at Halicarnassus



Temple of Artemis at Ephesus

the Persians," he had scarcely a clue that he was about to be overrun by Alexander's juggernaut.

It all began with the campaign's first engagement, the battle at the Granicus River. Alexander's forces had crossed the Hellespont (known today as the Dardanelles), camping briefly in ancient Troy. With a Homeric sense of destiny, Alexander went to Troy to pay homage to his Asia-invading ancestor Achilles and to borrow the Trojan warrior's shield. To circumvent the Macedonian custom that forbade warfare during the month of Daisios (May), Alexander combined religious practice with conquest—decreeing a continuation of the previous month to justify combat.

The Battle of the Granicus pitted Alexander's forces against those of Darius' satraps (provincial governors). Darius himself would not take the field against Alexander until the Battle of Issus a year and a half later. At this early juncture, however, Darius underestimated Alexander as an impetuous youth on a madcap adventure.

As Alexander and his Macedonians won a stunning victory, Granicus forever changed the region's political landscape. The Homeric aspect of his victory was not lost on the conqueror. As Alexander charged the Persian army's left center, the ensuing melee drew three satrapal division commanders against him in an effort to end the threat in one blow. Instead, Alexander and his comrade "Cleitus the Black" killed all three, throwing the leaderless Persians into confusion and completing a Macedonian rout.

Persia's loss of its only field army in western Asia Minor left the entire Anatolian peninsula vulnerable. The Macedonians started by toppling Persian regimes in the western coastal cities. Alexander saw these actions as critical to preventing Darius from using the sea to bring in new forces.

Temple of Artemis at Ephesus

Silver Cistophoric Tetradrachma of Claudius

PASSING THROUGH EPHESUS, Alexander visited the nearly completed

Temple of Artemis. He offered the money needed to finish its reconstruction, along with the condition that his name be placed on the work. Not wishing to promote Alexander over their patron Artemis, the Ephesians declined his offer. Before he left, however, they accepted his gift and let him dedicate a sacrifice in the temple.

Mausoleum at Halicarnassus

Silver Tetradrachma of Mausollos

PRESSING ON WITH newly recruited mercenaries, Alexander's forces laid siege to both Miletus and Halicarnassus. While approaching the latter, Alexander was met by an entreating Queen Ada, the city's deposed ruler and the widow of a former satrap. After he breached the city wall a short distance from the imposing Mausoleum, Alexander sealed his conquest through intrigue. Restoring the queen to her throne, he became the liberator of Halicarnassus' anti-Persian faction. By this ploy, Alexander gained control over the Aegean Sea and could drive inland.

Pushing northeast into Phrygia, Alexander and his men reached Celaenae by late 334 B.C. Known as a strategic crossroads and for its connection with Noah's Ark, Celaenae fell without a fight. Alexander had only to surround its fortress with his army. Faced with starvation, after 10 days Celaenae offered a truce. Alexander accepted the terms and established a garrison of 1,500 troops under Antigonus "the One-Eyed" (Monophthalmos), whom he appointed satrap of Phrygia.

After Celaenae, Alexander marched into Gordium, a city the invaders chose as a rendezvous point for fresh Macedonian and Greek reinforcements. The ancient home of King Midas, Gordium also was a destination for would-be heroes vying to solve its famous rope knot. (Many years before Alexander came, a local oracle predicted that whoever untied the so-called "Gordian Knot" would someday rule Asia.) Never one to pass up a challenge, Alexander unraveled the complex knot by cutting it apart with his sword. Not long afterward, the Macedonian fulfilled the legendary promise when he became ruler of the Persian Empire.

Alexander and his men won Asia Minor without once encountering Darius' main army. In due time, they clashed, first at Issus in the autumn of 333 B.C. There Alexander out-maneuvered and "out-generaled" his foe. By his spirited and trademark attack against the Persian command element, Alexander drove Darius from the battlefield. Lost were the battle —and Darius' numeric advantage.



A drachm of Carian Rhodes (167-88 B.C.) features a radiate head of Helios and a rose, symbol of the City of Rhodes, rendered in incuse style.



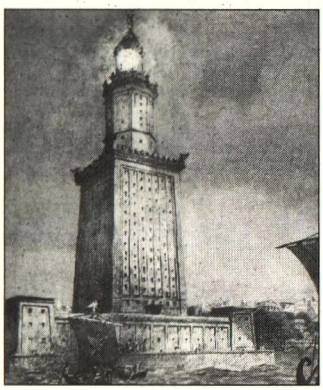
Colossus of Rhodes

Colossus of Rhodes

Silver Drachma of Rhodes

DARIUS ALSO LOST his entourage, including his mother, wife and children. Alexander and his army proceeded southward toward Egypt with the captured family in tow. On the way, they seized Darius' war chest in Damascus and besieged the port cities of Tyre and Gaza. It was critical





Pharos of Alexandria



Pyramids of Egypt at Giza



A drachm (top) issued by Hadrian (A.D. 117-38) for Roman Egypt-Alexandria shows a laureate, draped and cuirassed bust; the reverse pictures Isis Pharia holding a billowing sail and sistrum, advancing toward the Pharos lighthouse. A medal (bottom) issued to mark Napoleon's' conquest of Lower Egypt/ Battle of the Pyramids on July 21, 1798, shows a left-facing bust and a pyramid with armaments.

that Alexander not bypass Tyre. To do so would amount to an open invitation for Darius to use his Tyrian sea power to bring the war back to Greece. Allied with Persia during the siege of Tyre was the island of Rhodes. Once he captured Tyre, Alexander dispatched a Macedonian garrison to secure Rhodes. In the 3rd-century-B.C., sculptor Chares recreated Alexander's unmistakable facial features in his Rhodian Colossus.

Pharos of Alexandria

Bronze Drachma of Hadrian

EGYPT FASCINATED ALEXANDER for reasons both strategic and religious. When he arrived at the future site of Alexandria, he foresaw the harbor's potential and commanded the founding of his first namesake city. Not quite 50 years later, the great Pharos of Alexandria would overlook the port's eastern harbor.

Pyramids of Egypt at Giza

White-Metal Medallion of Napoleon

THE FUTURE ALEXANDRIA was a stopping point between Memphis—the ancient capital of Egypt, where Alexander was crowned Pharaoh—and the Oasis of Siwa, home of the legendary Zeus Ammon and his oracle, which Alexander visited. We may never know if Alexander viewed the Pyramids of Giza, but these great monuments lay on his way from Memphis to Alexandria (how could he have passed them by?).

Once in Siwa, Alexander visited Ammon's shrine. A legendary account claimed that the god's priestly oracle greeted the conqueror as the son of Zeus (Ammon and Zeus were the same god). What may have been only a slip of the tongue, Alexander understood to be authoritative. From then on, he touted himself as the son of Zeus Ammon. Several years later, minters in India struck silver coins depicting Alexander as Zeus Ammon holding a thunderbolt. Many posthumous issues also make reference to

continued on page 73

Get the Facts Before You Buy or Sell Another United States Coin

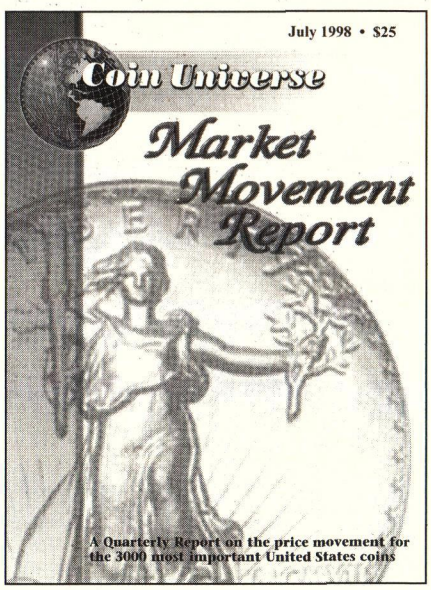
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1958	$28.00	1970-S	$9.70	1978-S	$8.80	1987-S	$5.60	1996-S	$10.00

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A Century of Numismatics—1901-2000

COINS & COLLECTORS

BY Q. DAVID BOWERS

IT WAS OUT with the old and in with the new in the '50s. This decade saw the traditional hobby of numismatics transformed into a new scene that fostered fast action, quickly changing prices, and the addition of many new investors and collectors.

Been There, Done That: 1951-60

Previous installments of this "century" series have been highly theoretical. I did not become involved with coin collecting until age 13 in 1952; therefore, I was not a firsthand observer of what happened in the first part of the 1900s. The Chapman brothers' auction sales, Farran Zerbe's particular brand of showmanship, the debut of Wayte Raymond's first *Standard Catalogue of U.S. Coins*, the commemorative boom of 1936—all this I have learned through reading, research and interviews.

With this month's installment, I change from a historical perspective to a personal one. Although my first year in the hobby was one of study and learning, by 1953 I was quite aware of my numismatic surroundings and a voracious reader of just about anything I could add to my fast-growing library.

Emphasis on Federal Coins

In 1952, when I began looking through circulating Lincoln cents, the accepted, standard reference book was the annually updated *Guide Book of United States Coins*, first published in 1946. This single, red-covered volume often constituted many collectors' and dealers' entire reference library. As strange as it may seem today, very few hobbyists were interested in colonials, patterns or any of the other items we currently enjoy collecting.

Nearly all dealers in United States numismatics in the 1950s adhered to the federal coin series. The field of paper money was quite obscure; early in the decade, Robert Friedberg was just beginning his first edition of *Paper Money of the United States*. National Bank notes? Forget it. No one cared. I recall attending coin-club meetings in the mid '50s and seeing large-size notes from different banks selling at almost face value, simply because collectors weren't interested.

Early on I discovered patterns—and soon latched onto a copy of the 1913 book by Edgar H. Adams and William H. Woodin, *United States Pattern, Trial and Experimental Pieces*. This volume did not provide prices, but listed availability on a rarity scale of R-1 to R-15, the highest degree. After I became a dealer and started attending conventions, other dealers often asked how to make offers or questioned me about examples, stating they had no expertise in patterns.

Essentially the same situation existed with Early American coins, particularly the state copper coinage of 1785-88. I really enjoyed my copy of Miller-Ryder's *State Coinages of New England*, but most other hobbyists could not have cared less.

There were exceptions to this trend, to be sure. About 1956-57, a group of enthusiasts who enjoyed history, as well as the less-traveled numismatic byways, met informally; Walter Breen, Ken Bressett, Eric P. Newman, Ken Rendell, Grover Criswell and others established the Rittenhouse Society, although the group was not formally organized until 1960.

Market Activity

In the mid 1950s, hot areas of the coin market centered on regular United States series. Lincoln cents



The October 1952 issue of *The Numismatist* featured this photo of the ANA convention in August in New York City. Lewis Reagan (seated, far left) served as general secretary, carrying on the growing administrative work of the ANA from a well-traveled briefcase.

were the most popular, as there was always the possibility—however remote—of finding a "fortune" in your pocket in the form of a 1909-S VDB cent (that might be worth all of $10 or $20). Similarly, the possibility existed of finding a 1916-D Mercury dime or a scarce Walking Liberty half dollar. The typical method of collecting was to put coins from circulation into the familiar, blue, three-panel Whitman folders, while serious numismatists were apt to use the National albums marketed by Wayte Raymond.

Key dates in all series were popular, as were commemoratives. Investors began to appear in significant numbers. Leading the investment market were bank-wrapped rolls of uncirculated coins; cents to half dollars beginning with 1934; and proof sets beginning with 1936. For a time in 1955, it seemed that the price of proof sets went up monthly, as regular as clockwork. Meanwhile, seeking to cash in on the bonanza, many collectors ordered sets directly from the United States Mint for $2.10 each. The overwhelming response forced the Mint to limit or suspend some orders.

The investment market was volatile, however, as many discovered in 1956 when the price of the highly regarded 1936 proof set crashed from $600 to $300. Dealer Sol Kaplan, in command of the proof market, came up with the bright idea of having a "bid board" at conventions. On this chalkboard, he listed the prevailing buying and selling prices of proof sets, often erasing and correcting in a matter of minutes—all this to increase the sense of excitement.

Conventions were "folksy," with few strict rules, but a great deal of old-fashioned camaraderie. "Security rooms" were unknown, and dealers with stock simply locked their wares in a closet or asked another dealer to guard the goods during mealtimes. While buying and selling formed the spirit of a convention then, as it does now, there often was a great deal of very enjoyable socializing. The first American Numismatic Association convention I attended in 1955 had an all-time record registration of 500 people. As the convention continued over several days, there were great opportunities for conversation.

At the Coin Shop

Hobbies flourished in the '50s, and most cities had at least several stamp, coin and collectibles shops. Indeed, over-the-counter sales were the primary means of collecting in an era pre-dating electronic communication and mass-media advertising. Visiting Boston in 1958, I was able to spend two days making the rounds of the nearly dozen coin shops in the city.

The foremost magazine for coin sales at the time was Lee F. Hewitt's *Numismatic Scrapbook*. Each issue offered a mix of interesting information, including mintage figures, readers' reports of coins found in circulation and advertisements of pieces for sale. Its competitor, *The Numismatist*, tended to be a bit more formal, with more technical news and fewer items for sale. The two publications complemented each other nicely.

Out in Iola, Wisconsin, Chester Krause launched *Numismatic News* in 1952 as a newspaper offering free classified advertisements to its readers. One of the earlier subscribers was my friend Jim Ruddy, with whom I bought, sold and traded for several years before we formed the Empire Coin Company in 1958. It was *Numismatic News*, I believe, that first gave wide play to the 1955 doubled-die cent, then called the "shift" cent by some.

Misstruck and off-center coins, respectfully designated as mint errors today, were termed "freaks," and there was little market for them. Later in the decade, Michael Kolman Jr. of Federal Coin Exchange in Cleveland, Ohio, jumped into the field of mint errors, and the number of enthusiasts increased. By the end of the '50s, the market was active, with correspondingly higher prices.

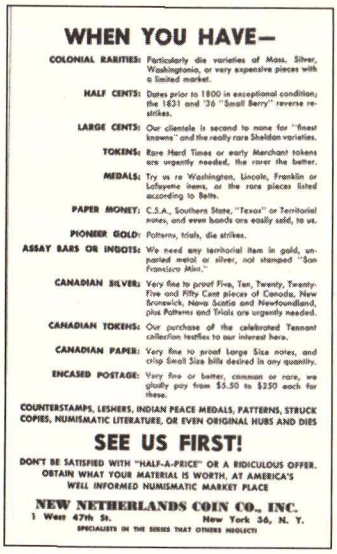
At this time, the affairs of the ANA were literally carried in the briefcase of General Secretary Lewis Reagan, who was based in Wichita, Kansas. Although the ANA had its Board of Governors and officers, it was Reagan who made the everyday decisions, such as checking out convention facilities, awarding bourse tables and the like.

On the Auction Scene

Auctions were conducted at regular intervals during the '50s. The Numismatic Gallery's Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg were quite busy. They split later on, with Kosoff attracting a lot of publicity with the sale of large collections, such as the Melish and Sloss cabinets. Kreisberg handled his share of important collections and later teamed up with a new partner, Jerry Cohen.

The man who was responsible for bringing Kosoff and Kreisberg to Southern California was Sam Koeppel, dean of the Pacific Coast dealers. I retain some very nice memories of this fine gentleman.

The Hollinbeck Coin Company, run by brothers Art and Paul Kagin, turned out mail-bid sales from Iowa with amazing frequency, seemingly on a monthly basis. In New York



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The New Netherlands Coin Company offered colonial rarities, large cents, and paper money in this ad in the November 1953 issue of *The Numismatist*.

City, Stack's conducted many fine auctions, including the magnificent Anderson-Dupont sales of 1953-54. Stack's primary competitor—and friendly rival—was the New Netherlands Coin Company, run by John Jay Ford Jr. and Charles Wormser.

In 1952 Ford cataloged the American section of the ANA convention sale. In various auction catalogs, the highly prolific writer generated a vast amount of informative numismatic text. Instead of describing an 1877 Indian cent simply as "brilliant proof," Ford commented on the coin's surface quality, quantity minted, price, whether the "backroom boys" had "scrubbed" it, and so on. Readers got caught up in the action. Although it is not uncommon in the '90s to find a lengthy description of such rarities as an 1895 Morgan dollar or 1916-D dime, it was quite unusual in the '50s. I always considered Ford and his precise, detailed numismatic description a model to be emulated, and I must confess today that I often use a paragraph instead of a sentence.

Other significant numismatic events of this decade that come to mind are the emergence of Walter Breen and the great changes he wrought in numismatic research; the King Farouk auction in Cairo in 1954; and the record prices paid for American rarities such as the 1894-S dime and 1804 silver dollar. During the '50s, the numismatic tradition was very much alive. Then came the '60s and the start of a vastly changed era in numismatics. The hobby has not been the same since, but more about that next month. •

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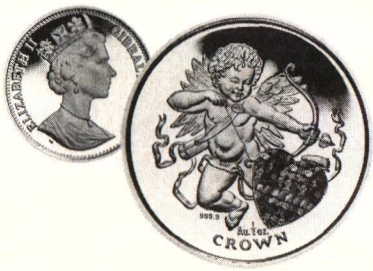
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Hull Struck Silver Shillings for Massachusetts

NAMES IN NUMISMATICS

BY PETE SMITH

HANNAH HULL LITERALLY was worth her weight in silver. According to numismatic legend, the dowry she took to her marriage with Samuel Sewall equaled her weight in coins. She supposedly sat on one side of a balance scale while her father, John Hull, piled silver Pine Tree shillings on the other.

A fanciful depiction of the event appears on a medal produced in 1930 for the tercentennial of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The inscription reads JOHN HULL/FIRST MINT MASTER/HIS DAUGHTER'S DOWRY/WAS HER WEIGHT IN/ PINE TREE SHILLINGS. The other side of the medal shows a reproduction of a Pine Tree shilling obverse.

John Hull was the Boston mintmaster responsible for striking silver coins for use in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. For producing the coins and for losses in refining, he was paid 1 shilling and sixpence out of every 20 shillings coined.

England did not allow her colonies to produce local coinage; rather, she sucked hard currency out of them. Merchants conducted business by barter, and colonies set official rates for the value of trade items such as musket balls and wampum beads. However, on January 1, 1649, England's King Charles I was beheaded, and civil war threatened. Oliver Cromwell's administration had little time to be concerned with the affairs of the colonies.

The colonists took advantage of this gap in authority to strike silver coinage. Acting under a charter granted in 1629, the Massachusetts Bay Colony exercised an independence beyond what the Crown intended. The General Court of the colony passed an Act on May 27, 1652, authorizing John Hull to strike silver coins. The dies for these coins are attributed to Hull and his partner Robert Saunderson.

The first shillings were inscribed NE (for "New England") on one side and XII (denoting the value, 12 pence) on the other. The colonial pieces were lighter than English pieces to discourage export. Their weight standard was 72 grains per shilling, so 1 troy pound of silver produced 80 shillings, as opposed to the English standard of 76 shillings to 1 troy pound.

The General Court passed another Act on October 19, 1652, that specified the design of silver coinage. Obverses had the image of a tree and the legend MASATHVSETS IN. The center of the reverse had 1652 and XII with NEW ENGLAND AN DOM in a circle. Major types include the Willow Tree issues struck from about 1653 to 1660; the Oak Tree issues of 1660-67; the "large" Pine Tree issues of 1667-74; and the "small" Pine Tree issues of 1675-82. These types correspond with the seven-year contracts granted Hull by the General Court. All bear the date 1652 to give the appearance they were struck while the English throne was vacant.

On October 23, 1684, King James II revoked the charter of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and colonists hid the document in an Oak tree (the "Charter Oak" seen on the United States 1935 Connecticut Tercentenary commemorative half dollar). Although the colonists revolted briefly in 1689 and sent English Governor Sir Edmund Andros home in chains, they produced no additional silver coinage after 1682.

Massachusetts' mintmaster, John Hull, was born in Market Harsborough, Leicester, England, on December 18, 1624, the son of Robert Hull and Elizabeth Storer. The family arrived in Boston on November 7, 1635. In 1647 John married Judith Quincy, the daughter of Edmund



Actual Size: 30mm

Depicted on a Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary medal is John Hull determining his daughter's dowry. He adds silver Pine Tree shillings to one side of a balance scale, while his daughter Hannah sits on the other.

and Judith Quincy.

John and Judith lost four children in infancy. Hannah, born on February 14, 1657, was their only child to reach adulthood; she married on February 28, 1676.

Although we know John Hull was a fat and jolly man, the size of his daughter, whose dowry was determined by her weight, is unrecorded. Benson Lossing's 1851 book, *Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution*, gives the value of the dowry at $150,000. This would be equivalent to about 10,000 pounds (troy weight) in silver —more than the total known production of Pine Tree coinage. Sylvester Crosby, in his book *Early Coins of America*, reported the value of the dowry as 30,000 pounds in New England shillings. A more realistic report estimated her weight at 125 pounds and the value of her dowry at £500 or 10,000 shillings.

Hull imported cocoa, molasses, sugar and tobacco, and exported furs to England and France. Trained as a silversmith, he continued to practice his craft with his partner Saunderson. He invested in real estate and financed ventures for others.

Hull joined the militia in 1648 as a corporal and rose through the ranks to captain in 1671. He was one of seven selectmen of Boston, town treasurer in 1658, and one of the founders of the Old South Church. Hull was "Treasurer for the War" (King Philip's War) in 1675 and County Treasurer in 1676. He also was deputy to the Massachusetts General Court from 1669 to 1673. Described as "the richest merchant on the continent," he died in Boston on October 1, 1683.

Hull's daughter and her husband Judge Sewall moved into her father's house. Their marriage produced 14 children. After Hannah's death on October 19, 1717, Sewall remarried in 1719 and again in 1722.

Called "the last of the Puritans," Sewall (1652-1730) was one of the judges in the 1692 Salem witchcraft trials. Appointed on June 13, 1692, as commissioner of *oyer and terminer* (a term in English law indicating that he could hear and determine criminal cases), Sewall presided over a court that convicted 19 people of witchcraft and sentenced them to death by hanging. On January 14, 1697, he stood up in the Old South Church and confessed to errors and guilt for those deaths. He was the only judge to publicly do so. •

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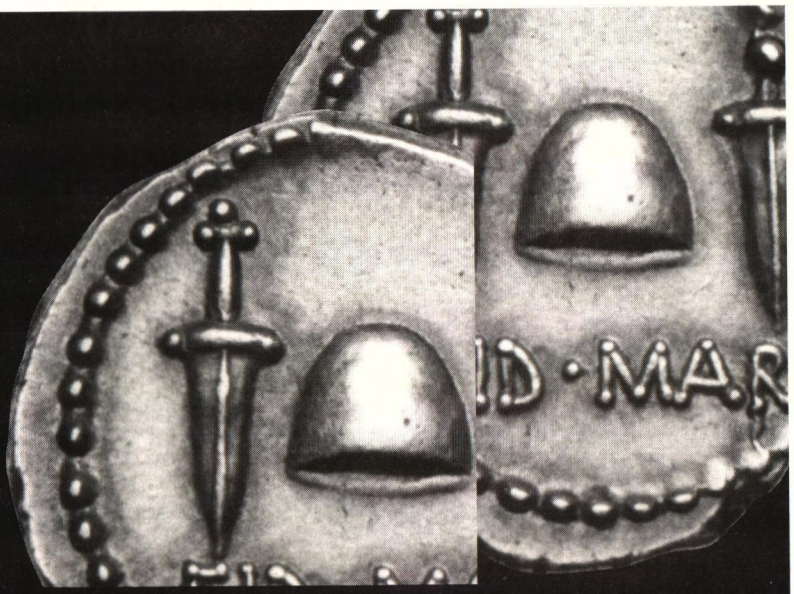
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The Emperor's Throne: So Near, Yet So Far

PRESENTS FROM THE PAST

BY DAVID R. SEAR

THE HISTORY OF Rome is filled with tragic stories of young (or not so young) princes destined for the imperial office who, for a variety of reasons, never achieved their great destinies. Some simply predeceased the emperors they were intended to succeed; others were murdered or fell from favor and were executed; while a third group did not survive the violent downfalls of their fathers' regimes. Most had coins issued in their names, thereby providing a possible theme for the formation of a collection.

The Julio-Claudian house has, perhaps, more than its fair share of unfulfilled promise. Rome's very first emperor, Caesar Augustus (27 B.C.-A.D. 14), encountered many problems in his attempts to arrange for his succession.

Always nervous about his delicate health, Augustus regarded his nephew and son-in-law Marcellus as his heir as early as 23 B.C. But the unfortunate youth died later the same year—at only 19 years of age—his memory perpetuated by the splendid theater Augustus built in Rome on the riverbank opposite Tiber Island (Theater of Marcellus). No coins were issued bearing Marcellus' portrait, with the possible exception of a bronze dupondius(?) of uncertain colonial mintage dated to 25 B.C., the year of his marriage to Augustus' daughter Julia (cf. #5415 in *Roman Provincial Coinage*).

Marcus Agrippa, Augustus' lifelong friend and architect of the momentous naval victories at Naulochus and Actium, now was regarded as first in line of succession. A large issue of bronzes from the Gallic colonial mint of Nemausus (Nîmes) shows the heads of Augustus and Agrippa back-to-back, while gold and silver coins from the Rome mint depict the portraits on obverse and reverse. But the loyal Agrippa died in 12 B.C., thus predeceasing his friend and patron by more than a quarter century.

The next Augustan heirs were the emperor's two grandsons Gaius and Lucius Caesars, sons of Agrippa and Julia. The two princes stand side-by-side on a prolific issue of gold and silver from the great imperial mint of Lugdunum. Other images can be found on both regular Roman coinage and a number of provincial issues. But fate again was to intervene. Lucius perished in A.D. 2, his elder brother just two years later. Truly, Augustus must have felt himself cursed.

Tiberius now emerged virtually unchallenged as heir to the imperial throne. The son of Augustus' wife Livia by a previous marriage, Tiberius, ironically, was the man the emperor least wanted to succeed him.

On the death of Augustus in A.D. 14, Tiberius became Rome's second emperor, a position he occupied until his own death 23 years later. His only possible rival was Agrippa Postumus, the younger brother of Gaius and Lucius, but this young prince had fallen into disfavor with Augustus and was quietly eliminated soon after Tiberius' accession.

But Tiberius had his own problems with succession. His first heir was his nephew Germanicus, elder son of his brother Nero Claudius Drusus. Germanicus seemed destined for a glittering career.

Popular with his soldiers and a gifted general and scholar, Germanicus appeared assured of his eventual succession to the imperial office. His sudden and mysterious death at the Syrian capital of Antioch in A.D. 19 caused great sorrow and never was satisfactorily explained. Might the suspicious and moody Tiberius have become jealous of his nephew and alarmed at his rapidly growing



A copper as depicts Marcus Agrippa, heir to Augustus at the time of his death in 12 B.C. (left). A second copper as portrays Germanicus, the popular heir of Tiberius, who died under mysterious circumstances at Antioch in A.D. 19 (right).



Tiberius' son Drusus, poisoned by his wife Livilla in A.D. 23, is pictured on a copper as (left). A brass sestertius (right) shows Claudius' son Britannicus, heir to the throne until A.D. 50, when he was replaced by Nero.

popularity with the people? It is unlikely we shall ever know for certain, though strong suspicion fell on Tiberius' appointee to the governorship of Syria, Gnaeus Calpurnius Piso.

On his return to Rome, Piso was tried before the Senate, but took his own life before deliberations were complete. He steadfastly denied any complicity in the death of the popular prince. Coins bearing Germanicus' name and image were struck approximately two decades after his decease, some under his son the Emperor Caligula, the remainder under his brother the Emperor Claudius.

With the demise of Germanicus, Tiberius' own son Drusus became heir to the throne. He was granted the important Tribunician Power in A.D. 22. Coins were issued in his honor showing not only his own portrait, but also the heads of his twin sons, surmounting two cornucopias; and that of his grandmother Livia as the goddess Pietas. But tragedy was to strike again.

Drusus' wife Livilla was seduced by the unscrupulous praetorian prefect Sejanus,who had his own ambitions concerning the imperial throne. Sejanus persuaded Livilla to poison her unfortunate husband. The conspirators initially avoided detection, but eventually both were to pay for their crime with their lives.

One of Drusus' twin sons, Tiberius Gemellus, was still alive at the time of Tiberius' death. However, like Agrippa Postumus more than two decades earlier, Gemellus was surreptitiously executed during the initial phase of the new regime.

Several decades later, another im-

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perial prince suffered a tragic fate: the son of Emperor Claudius (A.D. 41-54) by his third wife, Messalina. Born after his father's accession, the child originally was named Germanicus after his ill-fated uncle, but following the Roman invasion of Britain in A.D. 43, the name of the young prince was changed to Britannicus. At this point, he was the unchallenged heir to his father's throne, and a number of provincial mints struck coins in his honor.

In A.D. 48, however, Britannicus' mother was disgraced and executed, her place taken by the emperor's ambitious niece Agrippina the Younger, daughter of Germanicus and sister of the late emperor Caligula. The new empress already had a son by a previous marriage—Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus, better known to posterity by his assumed name "Nero."

Britannicus now was pushed into the background, and by A.D. 50 officially had been replaced as imperial heir by Nero. Thus, on the death of Claudius in 54, the 17-year-old Nero became Rome's fifth emperor.

The following year, the unlucky Britannicus, like his father, fell victim to Agrippina's skills as a purveyor of poison. Had the virtuous Britannicus been allowed to occupy the imperial throne in natural succession to his father, Rome might have been spared much suffering and avoided the costly and bloody civil wars that followed Nero's downfall in A.D. 68.

A little-known prince of Rome's second imperial dynasty (the Flavian) was Vespasian Junior, whose coinage appears mostly to be confined to the important provincial mint of Smyrna in Roman Asia. The Emperor Domitian (A.D. 81-96) had no surviving sons, so he adopted his cousin's children Vespasian Junior and Domitian Junior. The boys were designated as heirs to the throne, but no coinage is known for the latter.

In A.D. 95 their parents were executed on a charge of treason (there is some evidence they had been converted to Christianity). After this tragedy, the young princes are not mentioned again by historians, and it may well be that they fell from favor at this time. Even if they had retained their rank, it is unlikely they would have been able to exercise their rights of inheritance, as Domitian's regime came to a violent end at the hands of an assassin on September 18, A.D. 96.

—continued in March •

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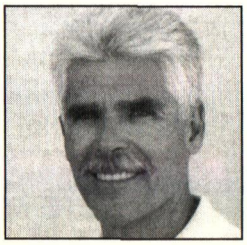
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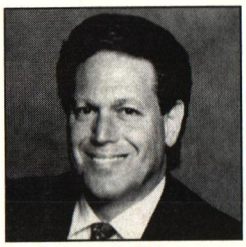


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The Other Man on the Booker T. Half Dollar

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

BY EDWARD C. ROCHETTE

THE CARVER-WASHINGTON commemorative half dollar of 1951-54 was a much-maligned issue. It was seen by most collectors as a greedy excuse to carry on with its none-too-successful predecessor, the Booker T. Washington half dollar. The issue was indeed a promotional scheme dreamed up by an entrepreneur named S.J. Phillips and, if he'd had his way, it would have been the second coin in a three-piece Black American series.

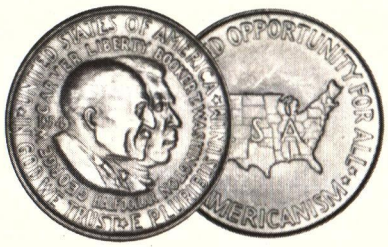
At the time of the release of the Carver-Washington half dollar, critics focused their attention not on the merits of the issue, but on the fact that the black academicians appeared together on the same side of the coin. The two were not exactly on good terms. Their verbal bouts were well recorded.

George W. Carver's fame was far overshadowed by that of Washington, his partner on the commemorative coin's obverse. That should not have detracted, however, from Carver's great contributions to American agriculture. He was to the sweet potato what Booker T. Washington was to the peanut.

Born in the early 1860s on a farm in southwestern Missouri, Carver was kidnapped as an infant, along with his mother, by Confederate bushwhackers. Carver later was found in Arkansas and returned to his grandparents; but his mother was never located.

Frail health and a "whites only" dictate kept Carver from attending local schools. Understanding adoptive parents sent Carver away to school. While he was interested in agriculture and nature, Carver's first love was painting. He studied at Simpson College and soon became an artist of great promise. His science, however, directed him to help "his people," and he began his well-recognized search for additional commercial uses for one the South's resources—the sweet potato.

Carver's varied experiments led to the discovery of hundreds of ways to use the sweet potato in supplementing the diet and income of poor, Southern farmers. Carver also developed thousands of synthetic products, including the processing of dehydrated foods like powdered eggs and K rations. Both the eggs and the rations, while failing to earn compliments from servicemen, served as wholesome substitutes for good meals during the heat of battle and contributed to America's ultimate victory in World War II.



Most collectors considered the 1951-54 Carver-Washington half dollar a greedy sales scheme. ANA ARCHIVES

Carver's altruistic accomplishments were too tempting for S.J. Phillips, whose marketing skills were indeed questionable. With the introductory issue of the Booker T. Washington half dollar, he mailed thousands of coins to unsolicited "buyers," requesting that they send money in return. Many ignored his plea; a sizable percentage of the commemoratives went unpaid for and soon were spent in trade.

When it came to imagination, however, Phillips was a man hard to beat. In 1951, five years after the introduction of the Booker T. Washington half dollar, he sought Congressional approval for another issue. Phillips announced that its purpose was financing opposition to "the spread of Communism among Negroes in the interest of National Defense." Few Congressmen dared vote against the proposal.

When Phillips proposed the legend, "United against the Spread of Communism—National Americanism Commission," the State Department opposed the wording. Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin immediately used the State Department's stand as his proof that the department was "riddled with Communists." The Treasury Department settled on "Americanism—Freedom and Opportunity for All."

S.J. Phillips contributed little of his proceeds from the sale of his second half dollar toward the development of Carver's birthplace memorial. Instead, credit for the

reconstruction of Carver's home and development of an appropriate memorial goes to the Department of the Interior's National Park Service. The log cabin of Carver's childhood was destroyed in a storm in 1881; but his grandfather, Moses Carver, rebuilt the home. The cabin was moved to its present location in 1916. In the 1950s, the funds generated from the sale of the Carver-Washington half dollar were supposed to help with the restoration that the National Park Service has undertaken. Today, the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Missouri, draws thousands to the site to learn more about the man who shares a place of honor with Booker T. Washington on a commemorative half dollar of the United States. •



A diorama in the visitor center at the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Missouri, depicts Carver's childhood home around 1870.

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- In April 1989, *he sold his entire inventory* to Kidder-Peabody's American Rare Coin Fund. That was at the same time the "experts" had a severe case of Wall Street fever! **Little more than a month later the coin market crashed!**

Coincidence, or just a lucky guess? **Neither!** These amazing examples are proof-positive of the extraordinary knowledge and sense of market timing Mr.DiGenova possesses. And unlike many other coin dealers who are either unwilling or unable to provide clients with crucial market information ... Mr. DiGenova is anxious to share his unique coin market insights with others, as evidenced by the following unsolicited testimonials.

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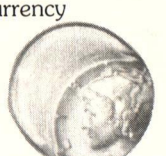
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CONSUMER ALERT

BY KENNETH BRESSETT

NOT ALL ADS that look suspicious are as bad as they seem. A case in point is one that appeared in a Sunday newspaper offering a reproduction of "The First United States Dollar Coin." I received several letters about this ad because it had all the elements that usually send up a red flag. The biggest problem was that it offered a reproduction, although this was clearly stated in the text.

Those who wrote me questioned the legality of the piece, and how it could be sold without the mandatory word "COPY" on it. They also wanted to know more about the metal content and price (which actually seemed reasonable at only $4.95). There just weren't enough facts. And to further complicate things, the illustration looked almost too good to be a replica.

I spoke to the distributor of this item, and he told me he had wanted to offer real Spanish-American "pieces of eight" to his customers, but just couldn't get enough nice coins. So he decided to make some reproductions and promote them as educational copies honoring the first dollar coin. They would be souvenir medals, so to speak, to remind people of the coins that circulated in this country until 1857.

The mementos offered in this ad were indeed close copies of the original Spanish coins: the same size and design, and so well made that buyers even got "a Certificate of Authenticity to verify the accuracy of this reproduction, and its limited production." (It never ceases to amaze me that some people actually require a certificate stating that something is an "authentic reproduction.")

The one major difference is that these pieces are not silver like the originals. According to the ad, they are "made of a distinctive non-silver alloy, to meet government standards for collector reproductions."

The promoter assured me there was no intent to deceive with these mementos, and those ordering by telephone received a free Eisenhower dollar. Not bad, but how about the picture? Well, the ad went to press before the replicas were ready, so they used a photograph of a real coin. That was why it did not include the word "COPY."

Apparently these limited-edition souvenirs did not draw any complaints from paying customers, but they sure did catch the attention of the numismatic community. I'd like to think some of the buyers might go on to collect real coins.

File #575

This offer was so bizarre, I could scarcely believe it wasn't a joke. I can only surmise that the person who faxed it from Dubai, U.A.E., actually thought it was a rare issue, and must be forgiven for not knowing anything about United States coins. It left me wondering if anyone actually thought about buying it, and what the price might have been.

The offer was illustrated by an actual photograph of the piece offered for sale, so we have some idea of what it is. The piece measures 3½ inches in diameter and features a very crude representation of the current Washington quarter dollar. It carries the date 1865 and the legend ONE DOLLAR. Added to the reverse, below the eagle, is the word FACSIMILE. The offer reads exactly as follows:

> 133 Years old one doller coins: Date of issue: 1865. Details of coin: One said of coin: United Satates of America (One Dollar Silver Coin) E Plurisus Unum, Picture of Falcon with two leaves. Other said of coin: Saite face one of the American leaders, Liberty, In God We Trest, 1865.
>
> The coin for sale for the best value. Looking for more information and best advaice were to sale and interesting parties.

File #576

This ad will bring someone a chuckle. It is your chance to buy a sheet of $2 bills in "mint" condition: 32 crisp, new, uncut bills, all on one sheet. They say it is suitable for framing, or it can be carried around and cut up and spent for beer, pizza and stuff. Or it can be used as a corporate gift to your favorite entrepreneur. (I might add that these sheets make nice gifts for any collector.)

If you do not want to spend $189.95 to buy an uncut sheet of $2 bills from this catalog house, you can order the same thing directly from the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing for $89 plus postage. Write to BEP, c/o Order Processing

Center, P.O. Box 371594, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7594.

File #577

I couldn't resist buying a "squirting nickel" offered by a novelty company. I've seen them before, but didn't know they still were being made. It's a real nickel that is hollowed out and fitted with a squirting device that releases a tiny stream of water when pressed. Yes, you can have hours of fun with a toy like this for only $3.25. And if this item isn't to your taste, the company also sells a two-headed quarter for $7.98 and a two-sided nickel for $5.98. (You can purchase either "heads" or "tails.") At only $3.98, their "pennies" are just as much fun for those who like to amaze their friends or win an occasional bet.

If these are not your style, how about a real cent with Lincoln smoking a cigar or a pipe? Or a 1943 "copper" cent that would be worth a fortune if it were not just a regular coin that has been copper-plated. Or for the more daring, a rolled-out cent that is "Good For A Hug and A Kiss Anytime—Anywhere." At three for $5.98, how can you go wrong?

File #578

This "Twentieth Century U.S. Coin Set" looked attractive at first glance. All 29 coins are nicely mounted in a thick, cardboard holder and sealed in a protective plastic covering that can be hung on a wall. The coins are set off by a black background and a colorful Seal of the United States. All the basic coin types are represented, including the Indian Head cent, Liberty Head nickel, and Barber dime, quarter and half dollar. No question about it, this is a neat collection.

The problem is an old one. The coins seem unreasonably priced at $89.95, especially because there is no mention of condition. Some pieces appear to range from Good to Fine, and might be polished. The newer issues might be close to Uncirculated, but it is hard to tell from the illustration.

I did notice one good thing about this ad. The picture shows a copy of *A Guide Book of United States Coins* (the "Red Book") on the table below the framed set of coins. I guess that adds an air of respectability and makes this a real numismatic treasure. Here's my advice: buy the book, look for the coins elsewhere, and frame them to your own taste. •



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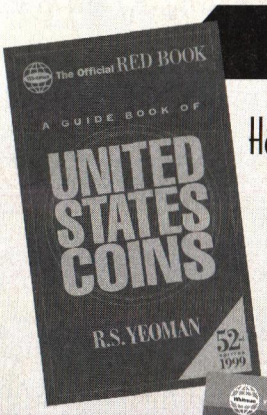
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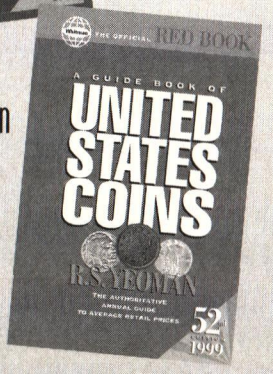
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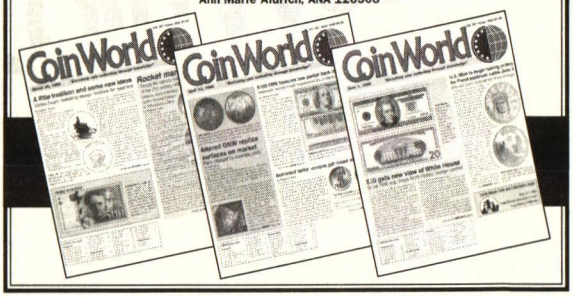
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BOOKMARKS

BY NAWANA BRITENRIKER

ANA Library Premières Oral History Project

I am a strong supporter of movements to preserve oral history, having participated in the development of such projects at the University of Colorado. Upon reviewing the ANA Library archives of written reminiscences and videotaped interviews, I realized that many key members of the numismatic community still remain unrepresented—and thus undocumented. The ANA Resource Center holdings contain a few oral history cassettes produced by various individuals in the past, but no project aimed at preserving personal, numismatic histories and anecdotes has been systematically attempted.

At a recent staff meeting, Chief Financial Officer Ruthann Brettell regaled us with anecdotes about the early days at ANA headquarters, and I realized that many members also might enjoy the opportunity to hear firsthand stories from well-known hobbyists. Accordingly, I began to formulate plans for the Library's Oral History Project—"Circle of Friends." Audiotapes seemed the best and most inexpensive method of capturing and preserving these valuable histories.

Although project preparation was still in its infancy, the recent visit of Chester L. "Chet" Krause to the ANA's Colorado Springs headquarters presented a unique opportunity, and we promptly scheduled an interview. Krause's reminiscences span more than 76 years and include such anecdotes as his conversation with United States Mint Director Eva Adams concerning restoration of mintmarks to the nation's coinage. Thinking Krause was something of a "country bumpkin," Adams said, "Oh, I like those little mintmarks, don't you?" Krause adroitly used the remark as proof the Treasury Department supported restoration of the mintmark. He believes that Adams, despite her subsequent advocacy of the hobby, resented his participation in that particular episode.

Future plans call for interviews with Edward Rochette, Ruthann Brettell, Robert Hoge, Adna G. Wilde Jr., Kenneth Bressett, and many others whose numismatic contributions and experiences in the hobby add so much to our enjoyment of its history. Moreover, the ANA's Internet provider is updating current technology to make these interviews accessible to members on our web site. And, of course, members can request copies of the tapes easily through normal library checkout procedures.

Recently the ANA Library was privileged to host a visit from The Colorado College's assistant chair of history, Professor Tim Cheek. The Colorado College is a private, four-year, liberal arts institution immediately adjacent to ANA headquarters. In fact, our facility is built on land leased from the college for 99 years at $1 per year.

Cheek was introduced to the ANA's Coole Library through the efforts of Yeoman Fund summer library intern Jack Hayes (a graduate of The Colorado College and currently a master's candidate at the University of Hawaii). Speaking to his class, Cheek noted that manuscripts in the Coole Library duplicate those available at Harvard University and the University of Chicago, but until Hayes described the collection, the professor was unaware that these archives were available "just down the street."



Chester L. Krause (pictured here in earlier days), founder and guiding force behind Krause Publications, was the first to be interviewed for the ANA Library's Oral History Project, "Circle of Friends."

Cheek and his class were able to evaluate the reference holdings firsthand. Following a tour of the Library and a description of Chinese printing and bookbinding techniques, students were introduced to Chinese numismatic pieces through lectures from ANA Museum volunteer George Fisher and Curator Robert Hoge. •

ANA LIBRARY CLOSED FOR INVENTORY

• January 1-15, 1999 •

This inventory project will facilitate development of an accurate Library catalog planned for early spring. Please keep these closure plans in mind when scheduling on-site visits or club programs, ordering videotapes or planning research sessions.

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The Seven Wonders

continued from page 48

the god, showing Alexander wearing the legendary ram's horn of Ammon.

Alexander led his forces to victory against the Persians in a third major engagement, fought at Arbela (near present-day Irbil, Iraq) in October 331 B.C. Refusing to learn from his debacle at Issus two years earlier, Darius again fled the battlefield in defeat. Hoping to fight another day, the Persian monarch instead met death at the hands of assassins in July 330 B.C. Alexander now was Persia's Great King.

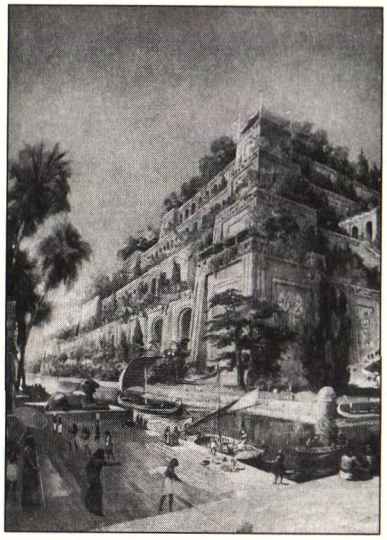
Alexander went on to conquer territory as far east as the present-day Pakistani-Indian border, capturing an enormous amount of booty in the process. Estimates range as high as 200,000 Persian gold and silver talents, worth in excess of $1.5 billion (given silver at $5 per troy ounce, and a Persian gold-to-silver ratio of 20:1). Most of this plunder came from the national treasuries in Susa and Persepolis.

Not one to hoard his wealth, Alexander appointed a treasurer to coin and circulate the captured bullion throughout the empire. Bearing standard design themes, Alexander's new tetradrachm (a 4-drachmai piece) soon became the coin of the realm.

Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Silver Tetradrachma of Babylon

BABYLON WAS THE site of Alexander's death on June 10, 323 B.C.; his empire was divided mostly between the dynastic leaders Ptolemy of Egypt and Seleucus of Syria. Historians note that as he lay dying (probably of malaria and drunkenness) in the ancient royal palace, Alexander gazed on the fabulous gardens hanging amid the Babylonian towers.



Hanging Gardens of Babylon



A tetradrachm of Babylonia in the Alexandrine Empire (311-280 B.C.) depicts Baal seated left, holding a scepter in his right hand. A lion is shown walking to the left, with an anchor above.

HOW DO WE relate to the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World today? For starters, we have one left to amaze us. Dating to the Old Kingdom Egypt of 2500 B.C., the Pyramids of Giza have endured the centuries with much of their splendor intact. Today, television programs often feature technocrats trying to reproduce in small scale the building of the Pyramids. But the secrets of the ancient builders persist, making true the Arab proverb, "Man fears time, yet time fears the Pyramids."

The other six Wonders, built between the early 6th century B.C. (the Hanging Gardens) and 280 B.C. (the Pharos and the Colossus), essentially are gone. Ravaged by earthquake, fire and the changing priorities of later generations, they remain mostly in our imagination and quench our present-day thirst for awe-inspiring creations. Egyptologist John Romer has commented, "They were quite simply the finest examples of the major elements of a brand-new civic architecture, the ancestors of every modern city on the planet."

Even more exciting than studying and speculating on the history and construction of these fabulous sites is owning coins of the Seven Wonders. Transcending any concern about their market value or investment potential, they embody for me all that is worthwhile and fun about classical numismatics. •

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Born in Connecticut in 1950, ***Dennis J. Mercieri*** *began collecting coins in 1962. He holds the rank of lieutenant colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve. A graduate of Denver Seminary, he presently is training for the Catholic priesthood in Connecticut. His numismatic pursuits include early United States type coins, U.S. errors and varieties, and classical coins of historic interest. Fond of large, Roman bronzes and Bible-related coins, he is ever looking to create a "teachable moment" through the use of numismatics.*

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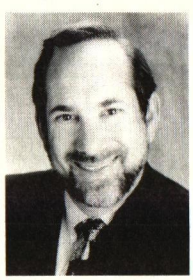
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ANA CHRONICLE

Sacramento Combines Past and Present

The City of Sacramento, California, has a lot to offer in the way of convenience, culture and just plain fun to collectors attending the ANA's 1999 National Money Show, scheduled for March 12-14. Founded in 1839 by John Sutter, Sacramento has grown from an adobe trading post to the center of the 1848 Gold Rush to California's state capital, providing modern-day visitors with a diversity of options.

The spring show venue is adjacent to the Capitol Mall, which opens up the downtown area and affords easy access to the state capitol, museums, restaurants and entertainment centers. "K" Street takes you from the new Sacramento Convention Center through the Downtown Plaza and into Old Town.

The Old Sacramento Historic District preserves a gold-rush ambiance that includes wooden sidewalks, cobblestone streets and quaint shops. The waterfront promenade links Old Town to the Crocker Art Museum. Other museums of note include the Wells Fargo History Museum, California State Railroad Museum, Governor's Mansion, Sutter's Fort and State Indian Museum.

Fun family activities, such as excursions to the Sacramento Zoo, Waterworld USA and Golfland, are available. Day trips to California's wine country also are easy to arrange.



California's state capitol (pictured) is situated across from the Hyatt Regency Sacramento, headquarters hotel for the ANA's National Money Show in March.

For a brochure, event calendar or map of attractions, contact the Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau, Monday though Friday, at 916/264-7777. For a daily update, telephone 916/442-7644 or log on to www.oldsacramento.com.

Thirteen Receive Numismatic Diplomas

Thirteen members have completed the ANA's Numismatic Diploma Program, a self-paced curriculum designed to educate collectors, and evaluate their knowledge and expertise. The program requires the successful completion of six ANA Correspondence Courses or Summer Seminar classes (or a combination of the two), as well as a three-hour, written examination.

Albert Sims, a coin dealer from Alamogordo, New Mexico, was the first to graduate. "The knowledge I obtained from the courses in the ANA program I use every day in my work," Sims said. Other graduates include Jack Ates, Win Calender, Tom Campbell, John Cupp, Bradley de Grande, Gregory Dubay, James Myhra, Louis Schiff, Timothy Shroeder, Ray Tussing, Kenneth Wendling and Ronald Wichman.

To learn more about the Numismatic Diploma Program, contact the ANA Education Department.

Swiatek Presents Presidential Awards

In November 1998, Anthony Swiatek named the newest recipients of

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www.money.org

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the Presidential Award, which was created to provide ANA presidents a fitting way to recognize supporters of the Association and the numismatic hobby.

ANA Interim Executive Director Edward Rochette presented an award on Swiatek's behalf to the **Indianapolis Coin Club** during its 60th anniversary banquet. At the Michigan State Numismatic Society's 43rd Annual Fall Convention on Thanksgiving weekend, the award was given to **William Ewald** of Franklin and **Joseph LeBlanc** of Canton.

At a retirement dinner in honor of Philadelphia Mint Superintendent **Augustine Albino**, Swiatek recognized the outgoing government official, as well as **Harry Forman** of Cheltenham, Pennsylvania. Swiatek also attended the Westchester WESPNEX Show in White Plains, New York, and presented the award to **David Alexander** of Mahopac, **Ernest Bain** of Carmel, **Lawrence Gentile Sr.** of New Rochelle and **Julius Turoff** of Flushing.

Heritage to Conduct Sacramento Auction

Heritage Numismatic Auctions of Dallas, Texas, has been selected to conduct the official ANA auction at the Association's 1999 National Money Show in Sacramento, California, March 12-14. Under the terms of the agreement, Heritage will pay the ANA $25,000 for the rights to the auction and will guarantee a minimum of $10,000 in consignments for a fund-raising "Bullet Auction" of certified United States coins on Saturday, March 13.

"We originally sought bids for the auction a year ago," explains ANA Interim Executive Director Edward Rochette. "Both Heritage and Superior Stamp & Coin of Beverly Hills, California, responded, but, upon review of the bids in June 1998, the Board chose not to accept either, requesting instead that each submit new bids. Heritage was the only firm to submit a second bid, which proved more than satisfactory, especially with its offer to conduct the fund-raising session."

Proceeds from the fund-raising

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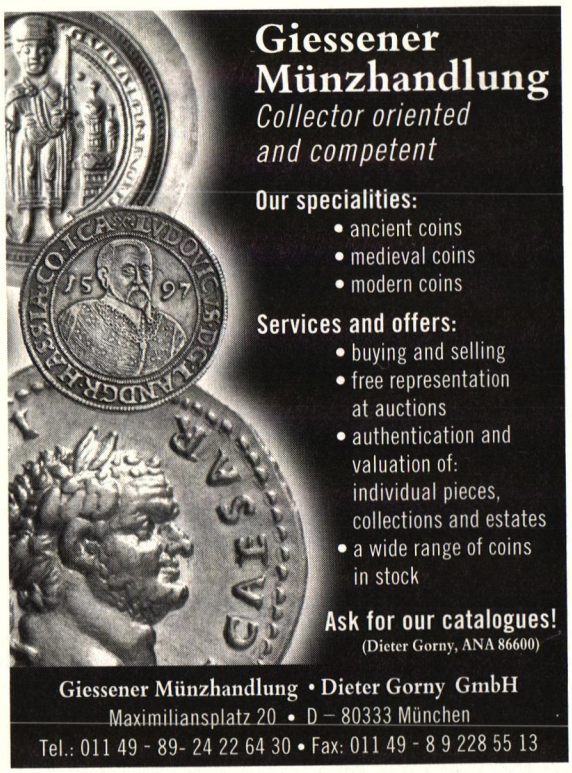
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auction in Sacramento will be used to help underwrite the costs of the ANA Library's new oral history project, "Circle of Friends." Numismatic notables will be interviewed and recorded by the ANA at its conventions and Summer Seminars, and at other hobby events. ANA members will be able to borrow audiotapes of the conversations from the Library or access selected recordings on the ANA's web site (www.money.org).

For additional information about "Circle of Friends," contact the ANA Library. To learn more about the 1999 National Money Show or the 1999 World's Fair of Money®, contact the Convention Department.

Hotels Offer Convenient Lodging in Sacramento

Those planning to attend the ANA's National Money Show in Sacramento, California, scheduled for March 12-14 at the city's convention center at 1400 "J" Street, will find convenient accommodations at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento, the official ANA headquarters hotel. Located at 1209 "L" Street, across from the State Capitol, the Hyatt is only blocks away from historic Old Sacramento, the "K" Street Mall and Downtown Plaza. Nightly rates are $130 for single occupancy, $150 for double.

Alternate lodging is available at the Clarion Hotel at 700 16th Street, approximately three blocks from the Sacramento Convention Center. The Clarion offers spacious rooms, ample free parking and complimentary airport shuttle (upon availability). Single or double rooms are priced at $82 per night.

Convention-goers should reserve accommodations directly with the hotels. Contact the Hyatt Regency Sacramento by calling toll free 800/233-1234 or 916/443-1234; or the Clarion Hotel at 800/443-0880 or 916/444-8000.

ANA Prepares Slate for Summer Seminar

The ANA's 31st Annual Summer Seminar promises a full week of numismatic learning and camaraderie. Scheduled for July 10-16 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the value-priced Seminar will include classes that appeal to first-time students as well as veteran attendees.

The slate of courses offered this year is broad, exploring numismatic items ranging from odd and curious money and coins of the Bible to Conder tokens and coinage of the Middle Ages. Both hobbyists and professionals can take classes to improve their skills in grading; detecting counterfeit and altered coins; exhibiting and judging; conducting research; and using computers.

A descriptive brochure and registration form will be mailed to past Seminar students later this month, or can be requested from the Education Department.

Exhibits Accepted for Sacramento and Chicago Conventions

The ANA currently is accepting applications for competitive and non-competitive numismatic exhibits at its National Money Show in Sacramento, California, on March 12-14, and World's Fair of Money® in Chicago, Illinois, on August 11-15. Exhibit guidelines and application forms are available from the ANA Convention Department. Deadline for receipt of applications is February 15 for the March show and June 14 for the August convention.



Donn Pearlman, former ANA Governor and CBS radio broadcaster, returns as a monthly columnist. Currently he is senior vice president of Minkus & Dunne, a public relations and marketing firm in Chicago.

Pearlman Returns to Delight Readers

Since Donn Pearlman retired his monthly feature, "Pearlman's People," in mid-1995, *The Numismatist* just hasn't been the same (or so say devoted members of his fan club). Beginning with this issue, however, readers again will find his commentary on the last page of this journal. Welcome back, Donn!

Sponsors and Patrons Sought for Chicago Show

To help underwrite a variety of special events and programs at the Association's 108th Anniversary Con-

vention in Chicago, August 11-15, the ANA is asking individuals and clubs to lend their support as sponsors and patrons.

Four levels of tax-deductible patron support have been established: Copper ($25+), Nickel ($50+), Silver ($100+), Gold ($250+) and Platinum ($500+). In recognition of their assistance, convention patrons will be listed, with their city and state, in the ANA's official convention program. The names of patrons contributing $100 or more will be listed on signs placed at the convention entrance. Checks, made payable to "ANA 108th Anniversary Convention," should be directed to the Convention Department. Contributions also can be made by MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover.

Numismatic dealers and other corporate entities can help underwrite the convention as "title" or "secondary" sponsors for specific convention activities, such as the ANA banquet, exhibits, Numismatic Theatre or World Series of Numismatics. Bourse table numbers will be noted for those sponsors who are dealers at the show. For more details, telephone the ANA's financial offices at 800/367-9723.

Speakers Needed for Numismatic Theatre

The Education Department has begun scheduling speakers for the Numismatic Theatre at the ANA's two 1999 conventions: the National Money Show in Sacramento, March 12-14, and the World's Fair of Money® in Chicago, August 11-15. A regular feature of ANA conventions, the Theatre offers 30- to 60-minute presentations by well-known hobbyists and numismatic authorities. Time is allowed at the end of each presentation for questions from the audience.

According to ANA President Anthony Swiatek, a strong advocate of numismatic education, "The Numismatic Theatre offers learning and fun—a great combination. Best of all, it's free and open to the public." For more details or to submit a proposal for a presentation, contact the Education Department.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Calendar listings are published as a service to member clubs of the American Numismatic Association. Entries must be received ***at least eight weeks*** *prior to the cover date of the magazine and preferably* ***as much as four months*** *in advance so announcements can appear in several consecutive issues. Type or print information and send to Calendar of Events, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279 or fax 719/634-4085. Receipt of show notices is acknowledged by post card; if you do not receive confirmation of your listing, contact the Publications Department.*

ANA EVENTS

March 12-14 SACRAMENTO, CA. Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 "J" St. ANA National Money Show. Contact Convention Department.

April 18-24 National Coin Week. Contact Education Department.

July 10-16 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO. The Colorado College. 31st Annual ANA Summer Seminar. Contact Education Department.

August 11-15 CHICAGO, IL. Rosemont Convention Center, 9301 W. Bryn Mawr. ANA 108th Anniversary Convention. Contact Convention Department.

NATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS

January 7-10 ORLANDO, FL. Orange County Convention/Civic Center, 9800 International Dr. 44th Annual Florida United Numismatists Convention. Cindy Grellman, P.O. Box 951988, Lake Mary, FL 32795-1988; telephone 407/321-8747; fax 407/321-5138. Includes Original Hobo Nickel Society Auction, Meeting & Educational Forum, OHNS, Box 1409, Malvern, PA 19355.

February 19-21 HONOLULU, HI. Blaisdell Exhibition Hall. 9th Annual Hawaii Collectors' Expo '99 sponsored by the Hawaii State Numismatic Association. HSNA, P.O. Box 477, Honolulu, HI 96809, telephone 808/486-4766.

March 6-7 BILOXI, MS. President Casino Broadwater Resort, 2100 W. Beach Blvd. 38th Annual Mississippi Numismatic Association State Convention & Coin Show. Show Chairman Blake B. Rouleau, P.O. Box 303, Collinsville, MS 39325, telephone 601/626-8805, or Louis Villalpando, 142 Kenmore Ave., Biloxi, MS 39531, telephone 288/388-0881.

March 26-28 EAST RIDGE, TN. Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1. 34th Annual Tennessee State Numismatic Society Convention. Bourse Chairman Terry Hess, P.O. Box 831, Clemmons, NC 27012-0831.

EAST

JANUARY

3 ALBANY, NY. Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capital District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180, telephone 518/274-4216.

17 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. F.J. Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St. Coin & Stamp Bourse & Coin Auction sponsored by the Erie County Coin & Stamp Club. Rolf Hjalmarson, c/o Lazer Tree Grafics, 6589 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221, telephone 716/633-4104.

17 SYRACUSE, NY. Ramada Inn, 1305 Buckley Rd. Coin Show conducted by the Onondaga Numismatic Association. Bourse Chairman Edmund J. Wlodarski, 8026 Trina Circle W., Clay, NY 13041-9159, telephone 315/699-3711.

FEBRUARY

7 ALBANY, NY. Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capital District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180, telephone 518/274-4216.

14 SALISBURY, MD. Civic Center, 500 Glen Ave. Coin Show held by the Salisbury Coin Club. John Haddaway, P.O. Box 3414, Salisbury, MD 21801, telephone 800/277-7754.

21 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. F.J. Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St. Coin & Stamp Bourse & Coin Auction sponsored by the Erie County Coin & Stamp Club. Rolf Hjalmarson, c/o Lazer Tree Grafics, 6589 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221, telephone 716/633-4104.

21 SYRACUSE, NY. Ramada Inn, 1305 Buckley Rd. Coin Show conducted by the Onondaga Numismatic Association. Bourse Chairman Edmund J. Wlodarski, 8026 Trina Circle W., Clay, NY 13041-9159, telephone 315/699-3711.

27-28 WEIRTON, WV. Best Western Inn, Three Springs Dr. Ohio Valley Coin Association 50th Fall Coin Show. Terry Jones, 726 N. Third St., Toronto, OH 43964, telephone 740/537-4798.

MARCH

7 ALBANY, NY. Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capital District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180, telephone 518/274-4216.

7 WILLIMANTIC, CT. Elks Lodge, Pleasant St. (Rt. 32). 26th Annual Coin & Paper Money Show sponsored by the Mansfield Numismatic Society. Bourse Chairman C. John Ferreri, P.O. Box 33, Storrs, CT 06268, telephone 860/456-2442.

13-14 INDIANA, PA. Best Western University Inn, 1545 Wayne Ave., Rt. 119 S. 41st Annual Spring Coin Show held by the Indiana Coin Club. Bourse Chairman John F. Busovicki, 72 Walcott St., Clymer, PA 15728-1230, telephone 724/254-2471.

13-14 YORK, PA. Springetts Fire Hall, 3013 E. Market St. 38th Annual York Coin Show conducted by the York Coin Club. Jane Knaub, 150 Throne Ave., York, PA 17402, telephone 717/757-4070.

20 MASSAPEQUA, NY. Presbyterian Community Hall, 150 Pittsburgh Ave. (off Broadway). Massapequa Coin Club Annual Coin Show & Sale. MCC, P.O. Box 56, Massapequa Park, NY 11762.

21 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. F.J. Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St. Coin & Stamp Bourse & Coin Auction sponsored by the Erie County Coin & Stamp Club. Rolf Hjalmarson, c/o Lazer Tree Grafics, 6589 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221, telephone 716/633-4104.

21 MIDDLETOWN, CT. American Legion Hall, 58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr., Rt. 66. Coin Show sponsored by the Middlesex County Numismatic Society. Bourse Chairman David Passamano, Mt. Parnassus Rd., East Haddam, CT 06423, telephone 860/873-2571.

21 PORTLAND, ME. Holiday Inn West, Exit 8, Maine Tpk. (Riverside St.). Coin Show held by the Gorham Coin Club. Stephen A. Crain, 89 Varney Mill Rd., Windham, ME 04062, telephone 207/892-7113 (evenings).

21 SYRACUSE, NY. Ramada Inn, 1305 Buckley Rd. Coin Show conducted by the Onondaga Numismatic Association. Bourse Chairman Edmund J. Wlodarski, 8026 Trina Circle W., Clay, NY 13041-9159, telephone 315/699-3711.

SOUTH

JANUARY

17 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL. Coral Ridge Mall, 3200 N. Federal Hwy. @ Oakland Park Blvd. Coin Show conducted by the Fort Lauderdale Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Harvey Bastacky, 1181 S.W. 108 Terr., Davie, FL 33324, telephone 954/424-8776.

22-24 HOUSTON, TX. Astrohall, 8400 Kirby Dr. (next to AstroDome); Loop 610, Kirby Exit. 42nd Annual Money Show sponsored by the Greater Houston Coin Club. GHCC, P.O. Box 2963, Houston, TX 77252-2963.

23-24 VERO BEACH, FL. Community Center, 14th Ave. & 23rd St. Treasure Coast Coin Club 35th Annual Coin & Stamp Show. Chairman Jim Montgomery, P.O. Box 3373, Ft. Pierce, FL 34948, telephone 800/264-4765.

30-31 FT. MYERS, FL. Activity Center, 2646 Cleveland Ave. (I-75, W. on Colonial, N. on U.S. 41, in front of Lee Memorial Hospital). 3rd Annual Ft. Myers Coin, Currency & Stamp Show conducted by the Ft. Myers Coin Club. Michael Herbert, P.O. Box 6121, Ft. Myers, FL 33911.

FEBRUARY

6-7 VICKSBURG, MS. Battlefield Inn (formerly Park Inn International), 4137 I-20 Frontage Rd., Exit 4B. 58th Vicksburg Coin Club Coin Show. Cason Schaffer, 107 East View Dr., Vicksburg, MS 39180, telephone 601/638-1195.

13-14 DUNCAN, OK. Fairgrounds Bldg., 1618 S. 13th. 30th Annual Coin & Collectible Show sponsored by the Stephens County Coin Club. SCCC, Box 635, Duncan, OK 73534, telephone 580/255-3400.

19-21 EL PASO, TX. Quality Inn, I-10 & Geronimo. International Coin Club of El Paso 36th Annual Coin Show. Bourse Chairman John Grost, 619 E. Crosby Ave., El Paso, TX 79902, telephone 915/533-6001, fax 915/533-6077.

21 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL. Coral Ridge Mall, 3200 N. Federal Hwy. @ Oakland Park Blvd. Coin Show conducted by the Fort Lauderdale Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Harvey Bastacky, 1181 S.W. 108 Terr., Davie, FL 33324, telephone 954/424-8776.

26-28 MEMPHIS, TN. Memphis Fairgrounds, Creative Arts Bldg. Memphis Coin Club Coin Show. Ray W. Brown, P.O. Box 40572, Memphis, TN 38174-0572, telephone 901/321-3408.

28 FT. MYERS, FL. Garden Council & Activities Center, 2646 Cleveland Ave. (U.S. Hwy 41). Ft. Myers Coin Club Coin, Stamp & Currency Show. Bourse Chairman Michael A. Herbert, c/o FMCC, P.O. Box 6121, Ft. Myers, FL 33911.

MARCH

21 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL. Coral Ridge Mall, 3200 N. Federal Hwy. @ Oakland Park Blvd. Coin Show conducted by the Fort Lauderdale Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Harvey Bastacky, 1181 S.W. 108 Terr., Davie, FL 33324, telephone 954/424-8776.

CENTRAL

JANUARY

17 SOUTHGATE, MI.. Southgate

Civic Center, 14700 Reaume Pkwy. (off Dix). Lincoln Coin Club Annual Coin & Collectible Show. Bill Summerell, c/o LCC, P.O. Box 777, Trenton, MI 48183, telephone 734/283-0982.

24 GREEN BAY, WI. Comfort Suites/ Rock Garden, 1951 Bond St. Nicolet Coin Club Spring Coin Show. Roger A. Bohn, 1345 Ponderosa Ave., Green Bay, WI 54313, telephone 920/499-7035.

24 MUNCIE, IN. Ball State University Student Center/Cardinal Hall, 2200 University Ave. Muncie Coin & Stamp Club 42nd Annual Show. Show Chairman Ray Saylor, P.O. Box 1184, Muncie, IN 47304, telephone 765/288-0371.

30-31 FARGO, ND. Doublewood Inn, 3333 13th Ave. S. Red River Valley Coin Club 39th Annual Coin, Stamp & Sportscard Show. Chairman Bob Hanna, 720 28th St. S.W., Fargo, ND 58106, telephone 701/298-3262, ext. 125.

FEBRUARY

5-7 ST. LOUIS, MO. Henry VIII Hotel, 4690 N. Lindbergh Blvd. (Hwy. 67). St. Louis Numismatic Association 35th Annual Greater America Coin Fair. Mike Orlando, P.O. Box 1102, St. Louis, MO 63074.

7 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI. Birmingham Masonic Temple, 357 Woodward Ave. Birmingham-Bloomfield Coin Club Annual Coin Show. John L. Frank, 725 S. Adams, Suite 21, Birmingham, MI 48009, telephone 248/644-8818.

7 ROCKFORD, IL. Holiday Inn–Hoffman House, 7550 E. State St. 85th Semi-Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Rockford Area Coin Club. Ralph Winquist, 1004 "C" St., Rockford, IL 61007, telephone 815/963-0396.

14 ROCHESTER, MN. Radisson Plaza Hotel, 150 S. Broadway. Rochester Coin Club Annual Winter Southern Minnesota Coin & Stamp Show. Chairman Jerry Swanson, P.O. Box 565, Rochester, MN 55903, telephone 507/289-5099.

28 FRANKSVILLE, WI. South Hills Country Club, 3047 Hwy. 94 Frontage Rd. (between Hwy. K & Hwy. 20). 61st Annual Coin & Collectible Show conducted by the Racine Numismatic Society. Bourse Chairman Jerome F. Binsfeld, Box 191, Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158, telephone 414/843-2321 (work) or 414/654-6272 (home).

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28 SPRINGFIELD, IL. Northfield Center I, 3280 Northfield Dr. (next to Juke Box Junction @ Dirksen Pkwy.). Annual Spring Coin Show sponsored by the Central Illinois Numismatic Association. Chairman Steve Butler, 1712 S. First St., Springfield, IL 62704, telephone 217/528-7634.

MARCH

14 LINCOLN, NE. Park Center Rec., 2608 Park Blvd. Coin Show held by the Lincoln Coin Club. John Veach, P.O. Box 5575, Lincoln, NE 68505.

28 MARION, IN. Grant County 4-H Fairgrounds, State Hwy. 18 E. 41st Annual Show conducted by the Marion Coin Club. Chairman W. Ray Lockwood, P.O. Box 93, Marion, IN 46952-0093, telephone 765/664-6520.

WEST

JANUARY

3 SAN BERNARDINO, CA. National Orange Show Events Center, Citrus Bldg. 36th Annual Coin & Collectible Show sponsored by the San Bernardino County Coin Club. Bill Grant, P.O. Box 295, Patton, CA 92369-0295.

28-30 TUCSON, AZ. Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Ave. 35th Annual Tucson Coin Club Coin Show. Show Chairman Tony Tumonis, P.O. Box 17021, Tucson, AZ 85731, telephone 520/326-8028.

FEBRUARY

28 LIVERMORE, CA. Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Dr. 36th Annual Coin Show of the Livermore Valley Coin Club. LVCC, P.O. Box 610, Livermore, CA 94551.

MARCH

13-14 TACOMA, WA. LaQuinta Inn, Portland Ave. & I-25. Semi-Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Tacoma-Lakewood Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Paul Longcrier, P.O. Box 7626, Olympia, WA 98507.

27-28 SANTA ROSA, CA. Finley Hall, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, Hwy. 12. 50th Anniversary Coin Show conducted by the Redwood Empire Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Merle Avila, 5850 Commerce Bl., Suite 100, Rohnert Park, CA 94928, telephone 707/585-3711.

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CLUB NEWS

Beginning this year, the **Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists** (PAN) will offer a travel grant of up to $2,000 to individuals engaged in research involving numismatics and related fields. To apply for a grant, submit an application form, a written proposal detailing the intended work, and two letters of recommendation. Eligibility requirements include graduate study and/or research in numismatics by persons attending a Pennsylvania university or studying Pennsylvania numismatics. Specific information and an application form are available at PAN's web site (www.money.org/club_pan.html); or write to Travel Grant Committee, PAN, P.O. Box 1079, Lancaster, PA 17608-1079.

At its annual convention on August 14 in Las Vegas, Nevada, the **Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club** (CC&GTCC) conducted a workshop to discuss the standardization of identification codes for worldwide casino chips, cheques and tokens. Participants at this initial meeting formed a committee dedicated to formalizing and promoting a universal numbering system. Many revisions are expected, and the process may be lengthy, as it requires developing a classification system that is satisfactory to the majority of collectors. Contact the CC&GTCC at its 24-hour, toll-free telephone number, 877/422-4822, or write to *Chip and Token News* editor Kregg Herz at P.O. Box 1000, Minden, NV 89423.

Thirty-eight junior coin collectors attended the young numismatist (YN) program at the **Westchester Stamp, Coin & Paper Money Show** (WESPNEX) on October 17, 1998, in White Plains, New York. The program, conducted by Larry Gentile, included a mini-exhibit contest, several young speakers, door prizes, a numismatic quiz, a play-money auction and a walking tour of the bourse floor. Information about YN programs is available from Larry Gentile at 542 Webster Ave., New Rochelle, NY 10801.

The **Northern California Numismatic Association** (NCNA) has announced that its 2nd annual NorCal Invitational Coin Show will be held on July 30 through August 1 at the Sheraton Concord Hotel in Concord, California. The three-day, multi-event show will include an 80-table bourse, exhibits, collector meetings, and YN and information tables. Bourse coordinator Vince Lacariere can be reached at Fremont Coin Gallery, 3769 Peralta Blvd., Suite L, Fremont, CA 94536-3758, telephone 510/792-1511. Bourse applications will be available next month.

The **Heartland Coin Club** of El Cajón, California, has announced the winning medal design in its 1999 competition. Titled "Ocean Riders" and adapted from a sculpture located in Imperial Beach, the medal portrays three dolphins emerging from a breaking wave. A medal set, comprised of two silver and two bronze pieces in bright and antique finishes, is available for $30 plus $2 postage; after March 17, the price will increase to $32 plus $2 postage. Contact Paul Olson, 12310 Linroe Dr., Lakeside, CA 92040.

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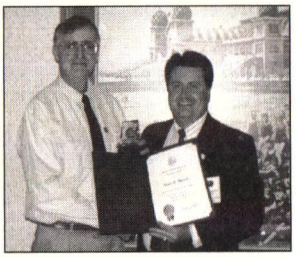
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Harold Edward Thomas
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Above left: ANA Governor H. Robert Campbell (right) presents the Presidential Award to Ralph R. Muller of the Utah Numismatic Society on behalf of ANA President Anthony Swiatek. Above right: Harry Tileston (second from right) of the Louisville (Kentucky) Coin Club receives his Presidential Award from Regional Coordinator Don Young (left) as Tileston's sons look on.

The **Treasure Coast Coin Club** (TCCC) will hold its 35th annual coin and stamp show at the Community Center in Vero Beach, Florida, on January 23-24. The event will showcase 39 dealers; educational displays, including the ANA traveling exhibit "Currency in Conflict: Money of the Civil War"; continuous video programming covering a variety of numismatic subjects; an information desk for questions on coins and club membership; a United States Postal Service booth; and free souvenirs for participants, as well as tokens and coins for YNs. More information is available from Bourse Chairman Jim Montgomery, c/o TCCC, P.O. Box 3373, Ft. Pierce, FL 34948, telephone 800/264-4765.

The **Greater New Bedford Coin Club** (GNBCC) celebrated its 60th anniversary with a banquet on September 13 in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Bill Jones, editor of the **New England Numismatic Association's** *NENA News* and a member of the Civil War Token Society, conducted a presentation on Civil War tokens. Also for this special

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event, the club archives were opened and excerpts were read from the secretary's report from 1938. Throughout the club's 60-year history, members have gathered to share their experiences in coin collecting, sponsor annual shows, raise money for local charities, and generally encourage community participation in numismatics. For more information, contact the GNBCC at P.O. Box 2991, New Bedford, MA 02741.

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OBITUARIES

BURNETT ANDERSON—ANA 113806

Burnett Anderson of Washington, D.C., died on November 26, 1998. He was 79 years old.

Born in Grantsburg, Wisconsin, on July 13, 1919, Anderson graduated from the University of Rochester (New York). During his long and distinguished career, he was a speechwriter for Minnesota Governors Harold Stassen and Edward Thye (1941-44), and a newspaper reporter, political writer and foreign correspondent in Minneapolis-St. Paul, New York and Stockholm. Anderson joined the United States Information Agency in 1954 and held assignments in Tehran, Madrid, Paris and London. After retiring in 1979, he served as Washington correspondent for Krause Publications, writing for *Numismatic News*, *World Coin News*, *Bank Note Reporter* and *COINS* magazine.

Anderson had a personal interest in the numismatics of Sweden, particularly plate money. He joined the American Numismatic Association in 1981 and was presented the ANA's Outstanding Government Service Award in 1996. He also was affiliated with the Numismatic Literary Guild (NLG).

Anderson is survived by his wife, Maria (Pia); two sons, Mark and Lee; and two grandchildren.



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WALTER PHILLIPS—ANA 59550

Walter C. Phillips of Coventry, Connecticut, died on September 15, 1998, at the age of 86. An ANA member since 1967, he received his 25-year membership medal in 1992.

Born in Stamford, Connecticut, Phillips graduated from Windham High School and attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He was employed by the United States Postal Service, and for many years worked for the Allen Manufacturing Company of Hartford and Bloomfield. Phillips is survived by his son, Alan, and several grandchildren.

JAMES GRONINGER—ANA 142570

James G. Groninger of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, died on November 21, 1998. He was 59 years old.

Groninger, who practiced estate law in Pittsburgh, earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a law degree from the Duquesne University School of Law. He was a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association and former chairman of its Probate and Trust Section.

As a youngster, Groninger was fascinated by the Buffalo nickels and Indian Head cents he sometimes received from customers on his paper route. As an adult, he enjoyed speaking at coin club meetings. An ANA member since 1988, he also belonged to the Pittsburgh Numismatic Society, Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Association and Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists.

Groninger is survived by his wife, Margaret (Locklin); a son, David E. Jansson; and three daughters, Dorothy E. Wahl, and Valerie E. and Kristen B. Jansson.

EXPELLED MEMBERS

R 164762 **Michael Greer**, Anchorage, AK. Expelled for failure to pay indebtedness to the ANA.

R 149340 **Ioannis K. Katounis**, Rego Park, NY. Expelled for failure to respond to a complaint.

R 175773 **Larry Miles**, Jupiter, FL. Expelled for failure to pay indebtedness to the ANA.

R 175834 **Thomas Sale**, Morro Bay, CA. Expelled for failure to pay indebtedness to the ANA.

R 178343 **Bob Wilkerson**, Moreno Valley, CA. Expelled for failure to respond to a complaint.

R 148782 **Neil Young**, Cooper City, FL. Expelled for failure to satisfy a complaint.

LM 263 **Joseph J. Adamski**, Naugatuck, CT (joined 7-46)

LM 497 **Arthur Bahr**, Cleveland, OH (joined 4-55)

R 167791 **Richard M. Bell**, Elk Grove, CA (joined 7-95)

K 166095 **Arthur S.W. Chantry**, Roy, WA (joined 12-94)

LM 1894 **Eugene L. Clonts**, Houston, TX (joined 3-68)

K 167933 **George O. Gale**, Trenton, NJ (joined 7-95)

K 120156 **Albert W. Gasperino**, Dillon, MT (joined 3-83)

LM 2399 **Marvin F. Gross**, Kansas City, MO (joined 3-69)

R 83299 **O. David Hemphill**, Egg Harbor, NJ (joined 1-75)

K 124478 **Fred A. Rhodes Jr.**, Houston, TX (joined 6-84)

LM 605 **Grady C. Truitt**, Muskogee, OK (joined 7-59)

A 102710 **Marie A. Ziegler**, Flemington, NJ (joined 4-80) •

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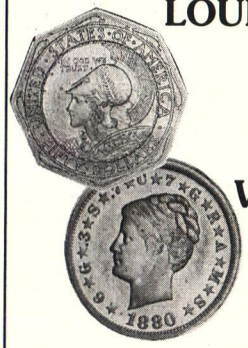
The ANA is seeking nominations for annual awards to be presented at the 108th Anniversary Convention in Chicago, August 11-15, 1999. All nominations **must** include date of submission, and name, birthdate (if possible) and background of nominee (such as awards, support of the hobby, etc.). Send nominations to ANA Awards Committee, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279.

Deadline is January 15, 1999.

Call for Nominations

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To obtain nomination forms and guidelines, contact ANA Executive Offices, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279; telephone 719/632-2646; fax 719/634-4085; E-mail rochette@money.org; World Wide Web www.money.org; or ANA's Fax-on-Request service, 800/910-7224 (#201527).



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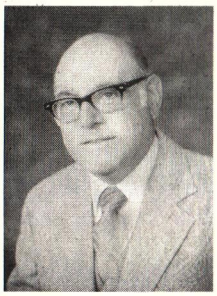
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Grading 20-Cent Pieces

FROM ONE TO SEVENTY

BY DAVID W. LANGE

ALTHOUGH THE 20-CENT piece of 1875-78 is little more than a curious footnote in the history of United States coinage, it nevertheless is collectable by type and by date. The official justification for producing the coin was the discontinuation of the silver half dime in 1873, which left residents of the western United States without a 5-cent piece. Nickels did not circulate a great deal in the West, but neither did half dimes.

However, the real reason for production of a new denomination in silver likely was to provide an additional outlet for this metal. As the production of domestic silver grew at this time, its price declined. Consequently, Congressional delegations from the silver-producing states and territories managed to get a bill passed authorizing this needless coin.

The 20-cent piece debuted in 1875, and the mints in Philadelphia, Carson City and San Francisco produced coins for circulation that year. San Francisco dropped out in 1876, and most of the 10,000 pieces coined in Nevada were withheld from release and subsequently melted. It took just a few months to establish that this coin was not wanted. Only proofs were coined in 1877-78; thereafter, the 20-cent piece was discontinued altogether. Most of the blame for its demise was assigned to its similarity in size and design to the quarter dollar. (The 20-cent piece did have a plain edge, but then so did the quarters after they were worn by a few years of circulation.)

Those 20-cent pieces that did enter circulation appear to have remained there for many years, as they often are found in worn condition. In most respects, grading circulated 20-cent pieces is similar to grading other Seated Liberty coins. One exception is found in the raised and thus more rapidly worn letters of LIBERTY, in contrast to the incuse letters on other denominations. For example, all letters of LIBERTY must be visible on quarters and halves grading "Fine," while just three letters must be discernible on a 20-cent piece in that grade.

These criteria are presented clearly in the book *Official A.N.A. Grading Standards for United States Coins*, which also advises that the 1875-S and 1875-CC issues are subject to weakness of strike on the eagle's breast. In addition, the latter routinely is weak on the eagle's upper right wing.

Grading mint-state 20-cent pieces offers no unique challenges. These coins typically do not show many marks, as their relatively small size and weight limited the force with which they clashed against one another during shipment. Coins of this type typically are downgraded because of hairline scratches or signs of light cleaning. Mint-state issues are fairly scarce—except for the 1875-S, which commonly is selected for inclusion in type sets.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation's (NGC) October 1998 census report lists the following populations for 20-cent pieces graded Mint State (MS)-65: 1875 (13); 1875-CC (22); 1875-S (97); 1876 (21); and 1876-CC (2). A total of 34 coins for all dates have been graded MS-66, with only seven examples certified MS-67. None have been graded higher than MS-67 by NGC.

Proofs of the 20-cent piece were coined for each of the four years from 1875 through 1878. The proof-only issues of 1877-78 are approximately equal in overall rarity to the 1876 edition, while all three are slightly more available than the 1875 proofs. It seems that a disproportionately high number of surviving proofs are impaired to some degree, with many proofs of this type displaying harsh cleaning.

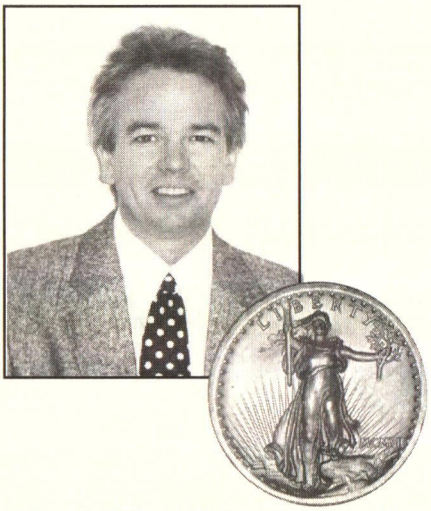
Most grading services refuse certification for coins damaged in this manner. NGC has graded a total of 79 proofs as Proof (PF)-65 and just 39 in higher grades. The 1876 coins lead the pack in high-grade availability, with 32 pieces certified by NGC as PF-65 or better. (As an interesting footnote, two 1875-S proofs also have been certified by NGC.) •



ANA ARCHIVES

Only proof 20-cent pieces were coined in 1877-78, after which the denomination was discontinued altogether.

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Cleaning: When in Doubt, Don't!

THE COLLECTOR'S EDGE

BY DON BONSER

MANY PEOPLE THINK a cleaned coin just looks better. However, when the time comes to sell or otherwise dispose of a collection of coins, those who have many cleaned pieces usually face disappointment. Other collectors face certain financial loss, either from having paid too much for cleaned specimens or for having cleaned the coins themselves.

Q: Would you be willing to explain how to clean coins in the lower, circulated grades? For example, can and should anything be done to remove grease that is embedded in coins during striking? How do you clean reeded, lettered and ornate edges? In general, what types of tools and solutions should be used and where are they available? How do you clean the various types of stains found on all metallic coinage? How do you remove the different types of oxides found on coins buried or immersed in seawater? And how can you remove the stains found on some coins? I have found copper and nickel coins, some of which are key and semi-key dates, on which one side and edge have turned dark due to oxidation. How do you make all the surfaces of these look about the same? —C.W., Alaska

A: Stop! Before cleaning *any* coin, you should be 100-percent sure of what you're doing. Remember, even if you're talking about low-grade, circulated coins, many more pieces are damaged by a well-intentioned cleaning than receive any benefit.

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As for coins that have been struck through "grease" (a generic term for an accumulation of metal filings, threads and real grease), most circulated coins have lost any remnant of the problem. On coins where grease still is present, the substance can be removed by careful use of a rose thorn (with the help of magnification, if needed). Be careful not to scratch the coin's surface with the rose thorn or the debris you are removing. You can clean embedded debris from the edges of coins in the same manner.

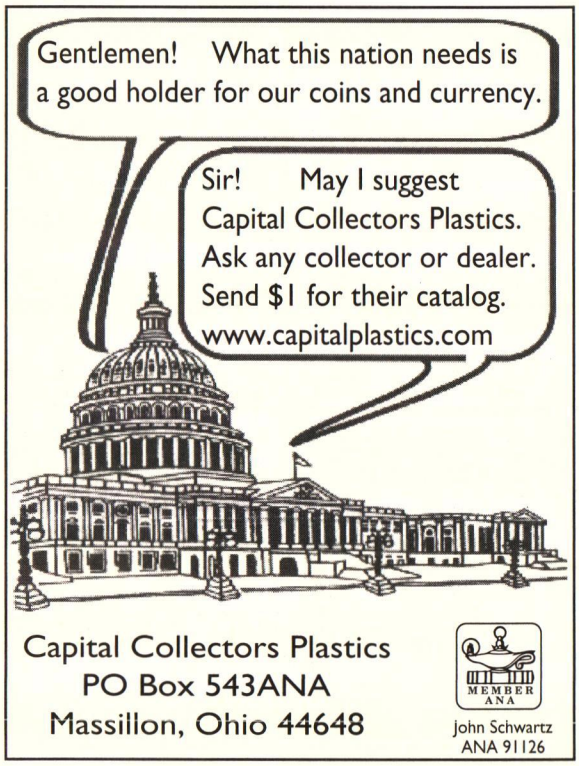
There are no "magic" tools or solutions that really work well, even in fairly specific applications. Most products or procedures do more harm than good. Many different types of oxidation—or stains—exist on coins, and any method used to remove them also will remove surface metal. Even a microscopic loss of surface metal can reduce a coin's desirability and value.

As is the case with many—if not most—oxidized coins, pieces that have spent time in seawater are impossible to return to their former condition. The oxidation can be removed by abrasive means, but along with it goes a small amount of metal. Such coins quickly are labeled "cleaned," and therefore are less desirable to collectors and dealers.

Paint often is removed easily with acetone. Larger or thicker areas of paint may require soaking the coin for some time to loosen and float off the substance. Use acetone only with adequate ventilation, and be aware that it sometimes will change the appearance of a coin's surface.

Some coins are oxidized on only one side and along their edges, usually from being stored in cardboard albums that were exposed to temperature and humidity extremes. My best advice again is to leave these pieces alone. Cleaning the affected areas generally will only worsen a coin's appearance and desirability. The only way to even out the surface of such pieces is to harshly clean the entire coin—and this, obviously, would prove counterproductive.

Send your questions about numismatic preservation to me in care of *The Numismatist*, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279; fax 719/634-4085; or E-mail anaedi@money.org. Keep in mind that your edited comments may be printed here or elsewhere in this journal. •





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Altered Dates and Mintmarks on United States Coins

Dates and mintmarks on coins are altered for one very obvious reason—to increase the value of a common coin by changing a key device, thereby giving it the semblance of a much scarcer coin. Date and mintmark alterations seem to have enjoyed a "golden era" in the late 1950s and early '60s. Most of the altered coins found today originated during this period.

Dates usually are changed by moving or removing metal from the original digits. For example, a 1910 nickel can be altered to a 1913 by forming a 3 from the 0 in the date. The left side of the 0 is removed, an indent is created on its outer right side, and metal is added to its inner right side. Another example is a 1941 half dollar, which can be changed to a 1921 by completely removing the 4 and fabricating a 2.

Most dates are altered by changing just one digit, usually the last. However, the latter is not always the case: a 1914-D cent can be created from a 1944-D. The ANA Authentication Bureau also has seen coins on which the date has been completely removed and another added.

Mintmark alterations most often involve Philadelphia Mint coins because they typically do not carry a mintmark, thus making it easier to add one. Mintmarks almost always are fabricated, rather than transferred from a genuine coin. Added mintmarks most commonly are found on the 1909-S VDB cent and 1916-D dime. These can be detected by comparing mintmark style and location with that of genuine specimens. Other frequently altered coins, such as the 1893-S Morgan dollar, require close examination of die polish lines, die chips and date position.

Coins on which the mintmark has been removed can be more difficult to detect. Almost always there is a trace of tooling in the mintmark area, though such evidence often is concealed by "whizzing" (mechanical buffing with a wire brush) or cleaning.

A knowledge of the characteristics of coins struck at specific mints is useful in determining whether the date or mintmark on a particular piece has been altered. For instance, an 1889-P dollar generally has a flatter strike and more rounded rims than an 1889-CC dollar, which usually has squared-off rims and sharper details.

As a general rule, when examining a coin for which there is a significant difference in value between various mint issues of the same year, be particularly cautious. The same applies to key-date coinage, alteration of which involves more work and skill.

Listed here are United States coins most likely to display altered mintmarks. If you have a piece you suspect has an altered date or mintmark, contact the ANA Authentication Bureau for verification. •

United States Coins Commonly Seen with Added or Removed Mintmarks

SERIES	DATE	
	ADDED MINTMARK	REMOVED MINTMARK
Cent		
Indian Head	1908-S, 1909-S	
Lincoln	1909-S, 1909-S VDB, 1914-D, 1931-S	1922
Nickel		
Liberty Head	1912-S	
Buffalo	1913-D (Variety 2), 1913-S (Variety 2), 1921-S, 1924-D, 1924-S, 1925-D, 1925-S, 1926-D, 1926-S	
Half Dime		
Seated Liberty		1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Dime		
Seated Liberty	1843-O, 1856-S, 1858-O, 1858-S, 1859-O, 1859-S, 1860-O, 1870-S, 1871-CC, 1872-S, 1873-CC, 1874-CC, 1878-CC, 1885-S, 1889-S	1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867

continued

SERIES	DATE ADDED MINTMARK	REMOVED MINTMARK
Dime (continued)		
Barber	1892-S, 1894-O, 1894-S, 1895-O, 1896-O, 1896-S, 1897-O, 1901-S, 1903-S, 1904-S, 1913-S	1895
Mercury	1916-D, 1926-S	
Quarter Dollar		
Seated Liberty	1842-O "small date," 1849-O, 1851-O, 1852-O, 1854-O "huge O," 1855-O, 1855-S, 1856-S, 1857-S, 1858-S, 1859-S, 1860-S, 1861-S, 1862-S, 1870-CC, 1871-CC, 1871-S, 1873-CC, 1875-CC, 1878-S, 1891-O	1888
Barber	1896-S, 1901-S, 1913-S	
Standing Liberty	1923-S	
Washington	1932-D, 1932-S	
Half Dollar		
Capped Bust	1838-O, 1839-O	
Seated Liberty	1842-O "small date," 1855-S, 1870-CC, 1871-CC, 1872-CC, 1874-CC, 1878-CC, 1878-S	1850, 1851, 1852, 1866 "no motto"
Barber	1892-O, 1892-S, 1893-S, 1897-O, 1897-S	1914, 1915
Walking Liberty	1917-D (obv. mintmark), 1917-S (obv. mintmark), 1938-D	1921
Franklin	1949-S	
Silver Dollar		
Seated Liberty	1870-S, 1871-CC, 1872-CC, 1873-CC, 1873-S	
Trade		1878
Morgan	1879-CC, 1880-CC, 1881-CC, 1883-S, 1884-S, 1885-CC, 1886-O, 1889-CC, 1893-S, 1896-O, 1897-O, 1903-O, 1903-S, 1904-S	1894, 1895, 1901
Peace	1934-S	1928
Gold Dollar		
Indian Head	1855-D	
Indian Head	1856-D, 1858-D, 1859-C, 1859-D, 1860-D, 1861-D, 1870-S	
Quarter Eagle ($2 1/2)		
Coronet	1843-C, 1845-O, 1854-D, 1855-D, 1856-D, 1857-D	1841, 1865, 1875
Indian Head	1911-D	
Gold $3		
Indian Head	1860-S, 1870-S	
Half Eagle ($5)		
Classic Head	1838-C, 1838-D	
Coronet	1861-C, 1861-D, 1864-S, 1870-CC, 1876-S, 1878-CC	1875
Indian Head	1909-O	
Eagle ($10)		
Coronet	1857-O, 1859-O, 1859-S, 1860-S, 1870-CC, 1877-CC, 1879-CC, 1879-O, 1883-O	1858, 1863, 1873, 1875, 1876, 1877
Double Eagle ($20)		
Liberty Head	1855-O, 1859-O, 1860-O, 1861-O, 1870-CC, 1871-CC, 1879-O, 1891-CC, 1892-CC	1881, 1882, 1885, 1886, 1891
Saint-Gaudens	1909-D, 1920-S, 1924-D, 1924-S, 1925-D, 1925-S, 1926-D, 1926-S, 1927-D, 1927-S	

APPLICATION FOR AUTHENTICATION

ANAAB

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Fee Schedule: The cost is $23 per item for specimens valued up to $4,999 each. For items valued at $5,000 or more, the cost is $40 per item. ❑ Reexam: $15 per item ❑ Transfer: $10 per item (ANAAB-certified items only) ❒ Plus + Fee: $5 per question.

COIN #	COUNTRY	DATE/MM	DENOM.	VARIETY	❑ REEXAM ❑ TRANSFER	Authentication Plus	ISSUE CERTIFICATE TO	OWNER'S VALUE

TOTAL INSURED VALUE $

Authentication Plus
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1. The opinion to be rendered by ANA as to the authenticity of said item(s) represents the opinion of the examiners retained by ANA to authenticate items. Such opinion does not constitute a guarantee that other competent examiners will not reach a different conclusion.
2. Any certificate of authentication issued pursuant hereto is not assignable and ANA's liability thereunder extends only to the party to whom said certificate is issued. ANA is not liable to any other party who may acquire said item(s) by purchase or otherwise in reliance upon said certificate or to any other party whatsoever.
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5. Applicant hereby grants ANA permission to use or dispose of, in any manner whatsoever, any and all photographs of said item(s) and any information obtained from the examination thereof, for any lawful purpose.
6. In view of ANA's policy that all packages of items transmitted to ANA for authentication are opened in the presence of two ANA employees, the determination of said employees as to the item(s) received by ANA and/or not received by ANA shall be final, conclusive and binding upon the applicant in any dispute with respect to ANA's receipt of such items.
7. The insurance referred to herein covers the period from ANA's receipt of a coin to its delivery thereof to a representative of the United States Postal Service for return to Applicant by Registered Insured Mail. ANA will not be liable for the subsequent loss or theft of or damage to such coin or the failure of the U.S. Postal Service to make delivery thereof, but will assist Applicant in completing a Postal Service claim form therefore.

Signature of Applicant_____ Date_____

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TOTAL THIS ORDER:				$_____

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THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AUTHENTICATION BUREAU:

- Renders an opinion whether a numismatic item is genuine or otherwise, including authenticating of all coins (U.S., foreign, ancient) tokens, medals, and paper money (including obsolete U.S.).
- Issues a photo certificate with a registration number on genuine items.
- Cannot determine initial insurance valuation of items–values must be supplied by the submitter.
- Provides reference attributions if possible.
- Uses its network of numismatic experts on a consulting basis for those items requiring additional examination and opinions.
- Provides counterfeit diagnostics on non-genuine specimens.
- Provides certification services for ANA members only.
- Provides additional information on membership services.

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Authentication Plus+ service provides evaluations not included in the standard certification process. Those submitting coins for certification can request additional data, including, but not limited to: rarity, value, weight, diameter, specific gravity, variety, surface characteristics, reflectivity, originality, type of counterfeit, reed count, and recommended references for further research. List item number and questions on a seperate sheet.

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- The ANA fee structure is predicated in part on accurate valuation of coins for insurance purposes. Overvaluation, even within the stated limits, raises costs and may result in a rate increase.
- Payment is due in full with order. Items will not be processed until payment is received.
- Reexamination requires submission of the certified item and the certificate.
- Transfers require submission of original certificate (ANAAB will not reissue certificates bearing grade opinions).

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- A black and white photographic certificate will be issued for newly authenticated items and for reexamination and transfer of previously authenticated items.

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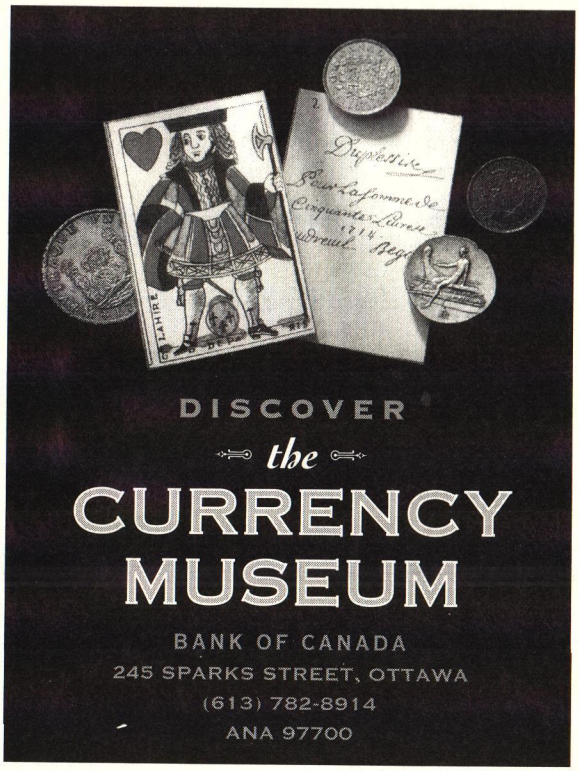
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AUCTION INSIGHTS

Year-End Sales Feature Ancient, Medieval and Jewish Numismatics

A December mail-bid auction conducted by Edgar L. Owen, Ltd., offered 498 lots of Chinese and Ostrogoth antiquities, pre-Columbian art, **ancient Greek and Roman coins**, and Oriental and Islamic art and antiques. Coin lots included a silver Cilicia tetradrachm of Aigeai featuring a turreted head of Tyche and a standing Minerva in Extremely Fine condition. Many items in the 50-page, 6 x 9-inch auction catalog were illustrated in the 40 pages of full-color plates. For information about upcoming auctions, contact Edgar L. Owen, Ltd., 1007 Mohawk Tr., Andover, NJ 07821, telephone 973/398-9557; fax 973/398-8082; E-mail EdgarOwen@worldnet.att.net; or visit Owen's Internet web site at www.edgarlowen.com.

William M. Rosenblum Rare Coins held Mail Bid Sale #28F in November. The sale catalog comprised 1,498 lots of **ancient, medieval and modern coins; tokens; medals; and world paper money**; as well as **Israeli, Palestinian and Jewish numismatic items** and ephemera. Among the World War II-era items were "Konversionkasse," notes given to Jews fortunate enough to escape Germany in Hitler's early years in exchange for their property and German marks. (Most refugees found the money to be worthless when they arrived at their destination.) The sale also offered **concentration camp currency** and **ship's money orders**. (During the late 1930s, Germans on passenger ships had to convert their marks into ship's currency.) For more details, contact William M. Rosenblum, P.O. Box 355, Evergreen, CO 80437-0355; telephone 303/838-4831; fax 303/838-1213; or E-mail wmrcoins@qadas.com.



Edgar L. Owen's December mail-bid auction offered a Cilicia tetradrachm of Aigeai in Extremely Fine condition, described as "an exceptionally rare coin." Until a small hoard was found, only eight were known.

In an 830-lot, December 15 auction, Subasta Numismatica of Barcelona, Spain, sold the Berceo Collection of **medieval Spanish coinage**. The collection included issues of Catalan-Aragón, Castille and León, and Navarre. The auction catalog showcased items in six, full-color plates, with additional high-quality, black-and-white photographs integrated with the listings. Further information can be obtained from Aureo, Subastas Numismaticas, S.A., Beethoven 13, 08021 Barcelona, Spain; E-mail Subastas.numismaticas@aureo.com; or visit Aureo's Internet web site at www.aureo.com. •

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CURATOR'S CORNER

BY ROBERT W. HOGE

Markoff's Collection and Presidential Progression

Among the most popular attractions in the American Numismatic Association Museum galleries is the delightful collection formed and donated by Californian Elliott Markoff —a wonderful assemblage of coins, tokens and autographs known as the "Hall of Presidents." The Markoff exhibit consists of handsome, plastic holders custom-made by Capital Plastics, representing each of the United States presidents from George Washington through Jimmy Carter.

Each of these holders, or "frames," contains actual coins (or, in a few cases, tokens) struck in the year of the president's birth, the year(s) of his inauguration(s) and the year of his death, and an authentic presidential autograph. These items are mounted with captions and an official, engraved portrait of the president produced by the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

This exhibit has no equal in the Museum for vividly relating events to American chronology. It is fun for young people to see just how the presidents wrote their names and what kinds of coins they might have used when they were growing up. They can learn what coins were in public hands at the time the presidents took office and what was being minted as their careers ended. Many of the Markoff coins are among the most attractive examples in the Museum collection, and Mr. Markoff must have selected them for their variety and interest, as well as their choice state of preservation.

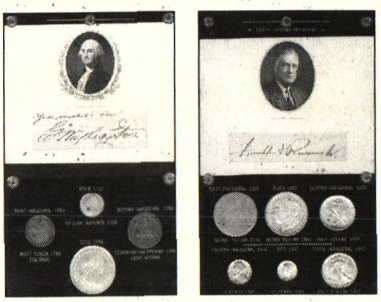
The ANA received the donation of the Markoff collection exhibit in 1979. (The "presidential panel" for James Earl Carter was incomplete. Fortunately, the Museum happened to possess in its archives a welcoming letter from Carter—written when the ANA had held its convention in Atlanta during his term as governor of Georgia.) Regrettably, Elliott Markoff died in 1982 just after having begun development of a new panel. His last gift to the collection was a 1911 Barber dime to represent the year of President Ronald Reagan's birth. Since then, the ANA has tried to obtain the necessary materials to complete the collection, but has been unable to obtain the appropriate items.

Charitably minded ANA members can make a meaningful and timely contribution by donating items to this worthwhile display. In addition to autographs of our three most recent presidents (not signatures prepared by White House clerks with an "auto pen" or other method of duplication), we still need suitable coins to represent the birth and inaugural years of George Herbert Walker Bush (1924 and 1989); the birth and inaugural years of William Jefferson Clinton (1946, 1993 and 1997); the death year of Richard Milhouse Nixon (1994); and the inaugural years of Ronald Wilson Reagan (1981 and 1985). Of course, some coins in the Museum's cabinet would suffice for this purpose, but it would be nice to add pieces with some special relevance.

Eventually, if donations are not received, we can purchase suitable coins and signatures, but this is a chance for present donors to make a clear and direct contribution that can go right into a current, long-term museum exhibit! •



Actual Size: 17.91mm



The "Hall of Presidents," made possible by donations from the late Elliott Markoff, is one of the most popular exhibits in the ANA Money Museum. Markoff's final gift, intended to help complete a panel for President Ronald Reagan, was this 1911 Barber dime (ANA Museum Accession No. 1981.202.1).

Since the American Numismatic Association is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, all donations—both of cash and of material with established "fair market value"—qualify as contributions for income tax purposes. Additional information can be obtained from the Museum of the American Numismatic Association, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279, telephone 719/632-2646; fax 719/634-4085; or E-mail anamus@money.org.

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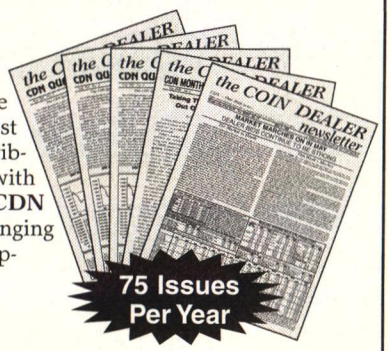
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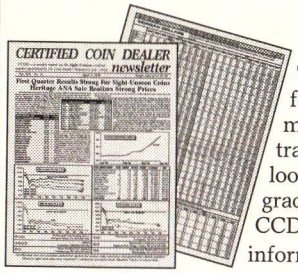
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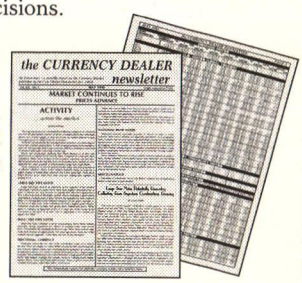
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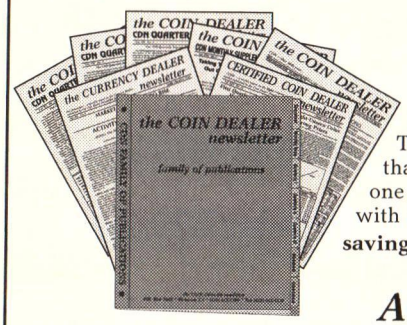


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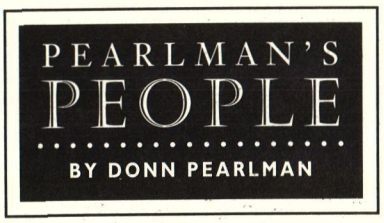
Numismatic Predictions for 1999

BECAUSE 1998 WAS such a quiet, low-key and utterly uneventful year for the ANA, the editor of this otherwise fine journal asked if I would reprise my monthly "Pearlman's People" column. This was a profound editorial decision, obviously made only after prudent deliberation and consultation with former First Lady Nancy Reagan's astrologer.

For readers new to this publication—and for veteran ANA members who successfully suppressed all memories of its previous existence—"Pearlman's People" is an attempt at numismatic humor, although serious, thoughtful or even perceptive commentary infrequently slips into print here. (Envision this column as Dave Barry, Art Buchwald or P.G. Wodehouse, only not anywhere near as witty, clever or insightful.)

This column appeared in *The Numismatist* from the late 1980s to mid '90s, at which time it was voluntarily retired when I discovered there was absolutely nothing funny anymore about numismatics. Recently, though, the editor determined something was missing from this publication, an astute observation since the United States Mint inexplicably declined to renew its contract advertising on this premium back page. The editor considered two journalistic options: leave this page entirely blank so readers could doodle their own commemorative coin designs in the space where Mint products previously were depicted, or begin the New Year with a knee-slapping, chuckle-filled humor page. Instead, she selected a third option: resumption of this column.

So, in keeping with an earlier tradition, this month I will present my "Numismatic New Year Predic-



tions." Here they are for 1999 (remember, you read them here first!):

1) One of the popular shop-at-home television networks will offer viewers a numismatic selection described as "The Brillo® BU Collection." Each set will consist of six, common, well-circulated, 19th-century coins that have been scrubbed with a scouring pad to make them bright and shiny. Within minutes of being offered on TV, all 97,000 "limited edition, heirloom sets" will be sold at only $174.95 each, plus shipping and handling.

2) Several dealers who vigorously protested the selection of Portland, Oregon, as the site of the ANA's 1998 convention now will demand a quick return to that lovely city because last summer's show was so overwhelmingly successful. These will be the same dealers who made similar protests, which were followed by similar demands involving earlier ANA conventions in Detroit, Denver and New York City.

3) Precisely 113 dealers will not return home immediately following the unsanctioned show the weekend prior to the 1999 ANA convention in Chicago, but then will plead they must vacate their ANA bourse tables early because, after all, they have been away from their coin shops and offices far too long.

4) After analyzing public reaction to the new $20 note, the U.S. Treasury Department will redesign the $10 bill by replacing Alexander Hamilton with Rich Uncle Pennybags™, the top-hat wearing, white-mustachioed gentleman synonymous with Monopoly® money.

5) Under the steady guidance of the new leadership team at ANA headquarters, the number of "Help Wanted" advertisements will drop so drastically that the Colorado Springs *Gazette* newspaper will be forced to lay off several employees in the Classified Ads Department.

6) Since 1999 finally has arrived, comparison shoppers will be able to determine the truthfulness of numismatic advertisements that describe an item as "the best coin buy of the century."

7) The Pobjoy Mint®, maker of the Isle of Man "Angel" gold bullion coin, will sponsor the popular television series *Touched by an Angel.* In a fiercely competitive marketing battle, the Royal Canadian Mint will sponsor a new show, *Touched by a Maple Leaf.*

8) The editor of this publication will spend the remainder of 1999 continually second-guessing her decision to resurrect "Pearlman's People," then conclude this page should have been left blank. •

Editor's note: *Donn Pearlman is a former radio broadcaster and former ANA Governor. If too many readers complain about his return to this page, he may be a "former columnist." Contact Donn at P.O. Box 750, Skokie, IL 60076, E-mail donnpr@aol.com.*

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